

Therapeutic Apheresis Services Service Portfolio



Caring Expert Quality





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Therapeutic Apheresis Services

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) Therapeutic Apheresis Services (TAS) provide adults and children with access to a portfolio of apheresis services across a range of clinical specialties using technology that exchanges, removes or collects certain components within the blood.

TAS operates an out-patient model for non-acute patient procedures and a peripatetic outreach model for paediatrics and acutely unwell patients.

Our aim is to be the preferred provider of high quality, cost effective and flexible therapeutic apheresis services in the NHS.

We offer:

- Robust, flexible and responsive regional services
- An expert and experienced clinical team and technical service
- First class quality management and regulatory compliance
- Comprehensive range of therapies
- Access to 24/7 emergency apheresis services



Our Facilities

Our regional services are delivered by experienced clinical teams from eight sites which are based in acute NHS Trusts across England.

Services are routinely provided Monday – Friday 08:00 – 17:00, however in many of our units we operate longer working days and routine weekend service provision to meet patient demand.

A 24/7, 365 days per year emergency on call service is provided across all of our services.



Further details about all TAS units are available on our website:
hospital.blood.co.uk/TAS

Procedure Portfolio

TAS provides a wide range of patient therapies, the main procedures we provide are:

Extracorporeal Photopheresis

Integrated two-stage procedure involving the collection and removal of white cells, which are treated with a photo activated drug and exposed to ultraviolet light then returned to the patient. Used for treatment of Cutaneous T cell Lymphoma, Chronic and Acute Graft versus Host Disease (a complication of bone marrow transplants) and other conditions such as solid organ rejection.

Therapeutic Plasma Exchange

Removal of disease mediators or to substitute missing or defective constituents in the plasma for the treatment of a wide range of patients across a number of clinical specialties.

The process removes the patient's plasma and replaces it with either fresh frozen plasma components or refined plasma products.

Automated Red Cell Exchange

Performed in a procedure similar to plasma exchange in which red cells are removed and replaced.

Automated Red cell exchange is used for the treatment of red cell disorders or diseases such as sickle cell disease or some cases of malaria.

Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Collection

Stem cells are collected from donors or from patients for use in their own treatment. They are used in the treatment of blood disorders especially cancers and solid tumours. The procedure separates the blood, allowing removal of only the white blood cell layer (containing stem cells) and returns the remainder of the blood back to the patient or donor.

Lipid Apheresis

Adsorption technology is used to remove Lipid Apheresis cholesterol molecules. This is used in patients with inherited forms of high cholesterol who do not respond to medication and dietary changes.

Lymphocyte Collection

This collection process is very similar to the collection of stem cells. Lymphocytes are collected from donors who have previously donated stem cells to further support the patient in their treatment by helping to introduce a beneficial graft versus disease effect.

White Cell Depletion

Performed on patients newly diagnosed with leukaemia who have excessively high levels of white cells in their blood in a procedure similar to stem cell collection.

Platelet Depletion

A rare procedure for the removal of large volumes of platelets in patients with very high platelet counts caused by an underlying disease. It is similar to the platelet collection procedure undertaken on volunteer donors.

CAR-T Cell Therapy

CAR (chimeric antigen receptor) T cell therapy is a new treatment for some types of cancer. White blood cells are collected from the patient's blood before being modified in a laboratory to target their cancer. The modified immune cells are then given to the patient to treat, or in some cases cure, cancer where other treatments have failed.

Research

TAS collaborates with various Organisations and Trusts supporting research and clinical trials in order to provide improved patient treatment and outcomes.

Please contact your local TAS team with any research enquiries.

Indications for Treatment

Therapeutic apheresis is indicated for adults and children with diseases across a range of clinical specialities including.



The decision to initiate therapeutic apheresis depends on multiple factors such as diagnosis and potential efficacy versus risk benefit ratio.

The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) publishes recommendations on the indications for therapeutic apheresis and uses categories from 1 to 4 depending on the evidence base and likely benefit. The 8th edition was released in 2019 – J Clin Apher 2019 Jun;34(3):171-354. These guidelines provide clinicians and commissioners with the evidence base for treatment.

How to Make a Referral and Access our Services

**Contact our
24/7 referral line:
0300 020 0496**



**Complete
referral form
and one-off
agreement request
form (if applicable)**

Alternative ways to refer:

In hours: Contact Consultant directly.

Out of hours: Contact local hospital services.

For full referral information and forms, please visit our website: hospital.blood.co.uk/TAS-Referral or scan the QR code



Other useful information about referrals

Venous access

Patients referred for apheresis procedures will require good venous access to support the blood flow to and from the apheresis equipment. Peripheral veins can be used where suitable however where peripheral veins cannot or are unlikely to be able to support the blood flow rates required by the equipment during the procedure (or course of procedures) then central venous access will be required. For more information on TAS' venous access considerations, visit hospital.blood.co.uk/TAS-Referral or scan the QR code on page 7.

Blood products/ components

Patients referred for apheresis procedures may require blood products/components as part of the procedure. Our staff will discuss this with you upon referral to arrange anything necessary.

Referral to treatment process

Our staff will work with you and your team to prepare for the procedure. The procedure will need to take place in an appropriate clinical environment. Our staff will carry out the procedure including obtaining consent (unless the patient lacks capacity), work closely with your nursing staff to ensure local policies are followed and will deliver a full handover to your team once the procedure is complete.



Delivering Quality Services is at the Heart of What We Do

TAS is committed to providing care that supports our patients and donors needs, in a safe, clinically effective and comfortable environment.

Our service is underpinned by the NHSBT Quality Management system, which supports the delivery of our high quality service with a strong focus on donor and patient safety. TAS consistently provides assurance of our commitment to quality and safety, which is demonstrated through our positive performance at both regulatory and accreditation inspections. TAS as a service has strong focus on continuous improvement and undertakes regular internal inspections through our quality and clinical audit programmes.

- Our cell collection services for children and adults are accredited by JACIE – The Joint Accreditation Committee of the International Society for Cellular Therapy (ISCT) and the European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT). Accreditation allows NHSBT TAS to demonstrate that it is performing to a required level of practice, in accordance with agreed standards of excellence. We work in partnership with JACIE accredited stem cell and cellular therapy laboratories, within NHSBT or located within the Trusts where we work.
- TAS services are regulated by both CQC and HTA and we work alongside our NHSBT independent Quality function and the organisations we work with, to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and regulatory standards.



Patient Experience and User Satisfaction –

We pride ourselves on continuous improvement and regularly seek feedback from our patients and referring clinicians. The feedback from our patients and service users are available to view on our website.

“Excellent responsive service – we are really pleased to be able to work with NHSBT TAS to help our patients.”

Referring clinician

Adverse Events/Incidents, Complaints and Compliments

We work in partnership with our service users to fully investigate any adverse events/incidents or complaints and encourage communication of any issues to us. For links to complaint forms and to more information on reporting adverse events, please view our website or contact your local unit.

“The staff really put me at ease. I was very nervous before I arrived but everyone was very patient and reassuring.”

Patient



Technology

We use a number of different technologies which utilise different separation techniques, including centrifugation, adsorption and filtration.

The procedures vary in length depending on condition being treated and clinical status of the patient. Procedure times can range from around 90 minutes up to 4 or 5 hours.



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Optia**



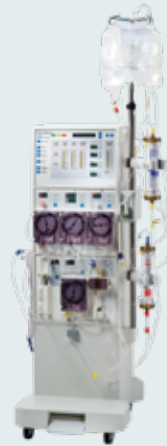
Collection and
exchange
procedures
e.g. Stem cell
collection and
Plasma exchange



**Therakos
Cellex**



Extracorporeal
Photopheresis



**Fresenius Art
Universal**



Lipid Apheresis



Our Structure

NHSBT is an NHS Arm's Length Body. TAS forms part of NHSBT's Clinical Services and is managed by a multidisciplinary Senior Management Team.

Our services are delivered by highly experienced medical and nursing teams.

Each of our units is clinically lead by a dedicated apheresis consultant. The consultant is supported by a team of experienced apheresis nurses who are highly skilled in the delivery of apheresis procedures. The local team is managed by a Lead Nurse.

The contact details of our Consultants and Lead Nurses are available on our website hospital.blood.co.uk/TAS

Treatment Costs

Pricing of NHSBT services is governed by the Department of Health's National Commissioning Group (NCG) for blood. Prices are set to recover costs only and are reviewed annually. Prices for Therapeutic Apheresis Services are determined on a cost per procedure basis and are fully inclusive of medical, nursing and consumable costs (price lists are available via your local TAS Consultant/Lead Nurse).

Billing

NHSBT will invoice the respective NHS Trust on a monthly basis for each procedure undertaken. The cost of blood components/products used in any apheresis procedure is not included in the procedure and will be charged separately.

Funding for Extracorporeal Photopheresis Services

NHSBT has a contract with NHS England for the provision of Extracorporeal Photopheresis (ECP) for patients suffering with Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma and Chronic and Acute Graft v Host Disease (as outlined by the Treatments for Graft versus Host Disease (GvHD) following Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation NHS England: 16069/P commissioning policy).

Other clinical conditions which fall outside of this policy, but where ECP may have benefit e.g. solid organ transplantation are subject to funding by an individual funding request.



TAS Further Information and Contact Details

Further information about our services, including full contact details of TAS unit staff can be obtained via the TAS hospital and patient facing web pages:

Hospital facing web pages:

hospital.blood.co.uk/TAS

Patient facing web pages:

blood.co.uk/index.aspx

Other Useful websites

American Society for Apheresis (ASFA)

apheresis.org

European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation

ebmt.org/

British Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation: BSBMT

b-s-h.org.uk/guidelines/

Heart UK

heartuk.org.uk

The British Committee for Standards in Haematology: BCSH

bcshguidelines.com

Sickle Cell Society

sicklecellsociety.org

NHS Blood and Transplant

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) saves and improves lives by providing a safe, reliable and efficient supply of blood and associated services to the NHS in England. We are the organ donor organisation for the UK and are responsible for matching and allocating donated organs. We rely on thousands of members of the public who voluntarily donate their blood, organs, tissues and stem cells.

For more information

Email TherapeuticApheresisServices@nhsbt.nhs.uk