



## Blood and Transplant

### The Update for July 2021

#### **eLearning programme to support advanced therapy training in the NHS, UK universities and government bodies**

#### **The fundamentals and clinical adoption of advanced therapies for healthcare and academic professionals**

Advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMPs) are medicines for human use, which use genes, tissues or cells to offer ground-breaking new opportunities for the treatment of disease and injury. These therapies are potentially curative and can offer the promise of treating and altering the course of diseases which cannot be addressed adequately by existing pharmaceuticals, offering a lifeline to some patients who may have exhausted all other treatment options.

As part of our ongoing support and delivery of cellular & molecular therapies to NHS patients, we have contributed to a new eLearning programme developed by the Advanced Therapy Treatment Centre (ATTC) network, London Advanced Therapies (LAT) and the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult (CGTC), in partnership with Health Education England eLearning for healthcare.

This programme is a series of eLearning sessions is designed to provide a core understanding of advanced therapies, how they function in the body, and the steps involved in delivering these medicines. The modules progress from the basics of cell and gene therapy, through to a more in-depth look at products currently being delivered through both commissioned treatments and clinical trials.

Learners will be introduced to the unique challenges of bringing these pioneering advanced therapy treatments to patients, within the usual standard of care, including the often nuanced logistical and handling requirements.

The sessions, which can be mixed and matched according to the learner's needs, are:

- Introduction to advanced therapy medicinal products
- In vivo gene therapies
- Immune effector cell therapy
- Focus on CAR-T cell therapy

- The logistics of ATMPs in hospitals
- Safe use of low temperature transport vessels

For more information and to access the sessions, visit the [programme page](#)

Ceri Roberts - Scientific Training Manager, Cellular and Molecular Therapies

### **Innovate UK funded SAMPLE (Standard Approach to atMP tissue colLEction) programme Recommendations published**

This programme has recently published [recommendations](#) (PDF 1324KB) for the procurement of starting material through apheresis for advanced therapy medicinal product manufacturing.

This work forms a part of the ATTC (Advanced Therapy Treatment Centres) support to the NHS, through the [NHS Readiness Toolkit](#).

Ceri Roberts - Scientific Training Manager, Cellular and Molecular Therapies

### **Platelets may be issued from an alternative apheresis platelet set undergoing validation You may notice some minor visual differences**

We're validating an alternative apheresis platelet set and platelets collected using the alternative set may be issued subject to meeting the specification.

This alternative set is from the same supplier, but you may notice some minor visual differences to the base label on the platelet pack and the administration ports are approximately 1cm shorter.

We assure you that the specification and volume of the apheresis platelet component remains the same.

Alison Sivyier - Consultant Nurse, Apheresis, Blood Supply

### **A new process for reporting leaking red cells and platelet packs to us Introduced 23 July 2021**

After an increase in the number of leaking packs being reported to us, we investigated (the results are outlined below) to find the root cause, then reviewed the process for reporting leaking packs, and on 23 July introduced a more convenient and quicker way of reporting for you:

[Our new process](#) (PDF 31KB) as a flowchart.

Can you discard the pack(s) on site?

If yes, then:

1. Take a photo of the damaged component
2. Complete a [Customer Complaint](#) form (Word 132 KB) including the donation numbers of any contaminated units
3. Discard the leaking / contaminated units
4. Email a completed complaint form and the photograph to Customer Services or your customer service manager
5. Submit a replacement order on OBOS and discuss with Hospital Services if the order is urgent
6. Submit a credit request

If no:

1. Contact Hospital Services
2. Is it a single unit?
3. If yes go to step 4. If no, go to step 5
4. Hospital Services will arrange a bio bottle to be sent to your blood bank
5. If you are returning a whole transport container, please secure it and mark for the attention of Hospital Services
6. Return the bio bottle with the complaint form or the whole transport container on your next routine round
7. Submit a replacement order on OBOS, and discuss with Hospital Services if the order is urgent
8. Submit a credit request

It is crucial that the form is completed with as much detail as possible including a list of donation numbers of any units you were unable to use due to contamination.

We encourage you to discard units on your site but understand that your capacity to do so may be limited, so there is an option to return units to your Stock Holding Unit. Please follow the process that best fits your situation at the time of the leak.

- Where a leaking pack has adversely impacted a patient, please inform us immediately so we can investigate it
- We no longer require the leaking unit to be returned physically to us; your information on the form will be forwarded onto the pack manufacturer for investigation
- We will not issue a formal response to these leaking packs unless new contributory factors are identified, or a response is specifically requested by you.

Please be assured that the Customer Services team will continue to monitor and trend leaking packs when requests for credit are sent to us.



## **The result of our investigation**

The standard process was followed in the main; with only rare occasions when it was not (we addressed these immediately and monitored); in most of these occasions manual handling looked to be the cause of damage to the packs (there were no other obvious reasons).

This is why it is important you continue to take care when handling components at low temperatures: the PVC packaging is fragile and likely to fracture if not handled carefully.

Deepa Takhar - Customer Service Manager

## **Therapeutic Apheresis Services Annual Review 2020 / 21 Now available**

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is a major provider of Therapeutic Apheresis Services (TAS) in the NHS. We provide adults and children with apheresis treatments from eight sites. At the end of each financial year, we complete a review of our key achievements and priorities for the year ahead.

We are delighted to share our [2020 – 21 review](#) (PDF 618KB) with you.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, TAS were proud to continue treating patients not only in hospitals where we routinely provide services, but also for over 150 patients from other Hospitals who struggled during the pandemic. Some of our key achievements in response to the COVID-19 pandemic were:

- Regional teams working nationally to ensure appropriate levels of staffing in each unit to meet patient demand were most needed
- The relocation of two of our TAS units (one unit on three separate occasions) to accommodate the reconfiguration of Trust services in their efforts to meet changing patient flows demanded by COVID
- The introduction of flexible working hours and service delivery to provide extended working days and weekend working to achieve COVID-19 secure units
- Introduction of satellite services to ensure patients had more localised access to treatment – for example, the introduction of an extracorporeal photopheresis service in Cardiff and the provision of a stem cell collection centre service for donors from the Anthony Nolan Registry in Oxford.

We are grateful to those we have collaborated with over the past year who have supported these achievements, and look forward to continuing to work closely together to deliver the best services for patients.

Please email [TherapeuticApheresisServices@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:TherapeuticApheresisServices@nhsbt.nhs.uk) if you have any feedback relating to this report, or any wider queries regarding our services.

Catherine Howell OBE, Chief Nurse for Diagnostics and Therapeutic Apheresis Services

**The Update is produced each month by Hospital Customer Services on behalf of NHS Blood and Transplant**

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