

INF1555/1 – Red Cell Services and Reagents for Transfusion

Effective Date: 03/03/2021

NHSBT Reagents

NHSBT Reagents meet your serology needs by manufacturing a portfolio of transfusion related diagnostic reagents, supporting our commercial and NHS customers as well as NHSBT RCI laboratories and donor testing services. These are available to users from our specialised manufacturing site at Speke, Liverpool.

Quality Statement

We hold a certificate of registration to ISO13485 and an EC certification of approval relating to compliance of our quality system with the in-vitro diagnostics directive. All products are CE marked and comply with the standards laid down in the Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services in the U.K. (current edition) and are prepared to best standards of practice.

We offer:

- ABO & Rh control/reverse grouping cells
- Products for Antibody detection and identification
- IgG coated cells
- Weak antibody controls
- IPEX (Internal Proficiency Exercise)- samples and questions for staff competency
- Enzymes
- Chemical products e.g. ZZAP, a mixture of cysteine-activated proteolytic papain and dithiothreitol, to solve complex serological investigations involving IgG autoantibodies
- Fluorescently labelled antibodies for FMH investigations

All red cell products suitable for automation have bar-coded labels in the appropriate format for the recommended technology.

Our ambition is to be the preferred partner for clinical, academic and commercial organisations shaping the future of medicine

Join us to work with us to save and improve patients' lives

To find out more about working with NHS Blood and Transplant contact:

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International Blood Group Reference Laboratory

Full details can be found on our website

<http://ibgri.blood.co.uk/>

NHSBT Hospitals and Science

Full details can be found on our website

<http://hospital.blood.co.uk/>

Red cell services and reagents for transfusion laboratories

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NHS Blood and Transplant

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is a Special Health Authority, dedicated to saving and improving lives through the wide range of services we provide to the NHS. We are responsible for the provision of blood, organs, stem cells and tissues through altruistic donation and ensuring a reliable and safe supply of these to hospitals to meet the needs of patients.

Red Cell Immunohaematology (RCI)

NHSBT offers a range of reference testing services which provide vital support for blood transfusion, organ and stem cell transplantation by ensuring the safety and clinical efficacy of transfusion and transplantation.

Using our network of laboratories, NHSBT works closely with hospital laboratories to support routine blood testing, complex and confirmatory testing. Utilising our experience and clinical expertise we can provide 24/7 support, on-line access to results and well respected training programmes for laboratory staff.

We offer:

- Follow-up red cell serology for antenatal patients with red cell antibodies, including quantification and titration of antibodies.
- Investigations of blood grouping problems.
- Genotyping for selected cases and haemoglobinopathy patients.
- Investigation of red cell antibodies, including cross-matching in cases of transfusion problems.
- Investigation of cases with a positive direct antiglobulin test (DAT).
- Assessment of feto-maternal haemorrhage (FMH) by flow cytometry.

Access

- Easy on-line access to our National Patient Database (Sp-ICE)
- Availability of 24/7 laboratory and clinical support via our on-call system.

Expertise

- Customer focused staff working with hospitals to develop a clear understanding of their needs, ensuring they can quickly and clearly deal with complex enquiries to support hospitals and ensure the best patient outcome.
- Our professional and experienced serologists have access to genotyping facilities, specialised reagents, rare phenotyped blood sourced from the UK Frozen Blood Bank, enabling rapid resolution of antibody investigations and provision of cross-matched blood.
- Expertise in logistics and transportation of sensitive and irreplaceable patient material.

Quality

- Committed to service quality, with regulatory expertise backed by years of experience and governed by a single Quality Management System.
- Work is carried out according to Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), relevant British Society for Haematology (BSH) Guidelines, Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologist (RCOG) Green-top Guidelines, ISO standards, Blood Safety and Quality Regulations (BSQR), Data Protection and Freedom of Information Acts.
- Regulated by Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority (MHRA); United Kingdom Accreditation Services (UKAS).
- Participates in UK NEQAS (or EQAS) exercises.

International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (IBGRL)

In the case of rare or ambiguous results which require analysis by specialised serological and molecular techniques, samples are referred from NHSBT RCI to IBGRL, based at Filton, Bristol.

IBGRL Reference Services

Red Cell Reference

The IBGRL red cell reference (RCR) department was established in 1946 and is one of the leading reference laboratories in the world. The RCR department investigates the most complex and difficult red cell immunohaematology cases and receives samples from reference laboratories worldwide, in addition to referrals from NHSBT RCI laboratories. As well as a distinguished record of research in blood transfusion science, another function of the department is to compile and maintain the International Rare Donor Panel (IRDPP) and to advise on rare donor availability to meet specific patient needs. Most samples referred to the laboratory are from patients whose serum reacts with the majority or all red cells tested and compatible donor blood is difficult or impossible to find. Investigation of unusual, rare or novel phenotypes are also undertaken on the red cells of patients and donors, some of which may eventually be registered for the IRDP.

Molecular Diagnostics

We offer:

- Fetal blood group genotyping service to aid management of pregnancies at risk from HDFN. Fetal RhD, RhC, Rhc, RhE and K (Kell) blood groups can be tested using maternal peripheral blood.
- Fetal *RHD* screening from 11⁺² weeks gestation to optimise administration of anti-D immunoglobulin: only give anti-D to those women who need it.
- Non-urgent and extended patient blood group genotyping; detection of rare blood groups and variants.