



Blood and Transplant

The Update for October 2023

We want lab staff to help us to identify and address knowledge gaps in education and training by completing our questionnaire

Our [questionnaire](#) should take less than 10 minutes to complete, and will help the [Transfusion 2024](#) team to develop an action plan to provide support and resources. We will use the feedback to help identify where our focus should be.

We encourage all lab staff to take part and complete our questionnaire: we want to provide the maximum benefit.

Jill Caulfield - Transfusion 2024 Education Development Lead

Management of the Molecular Diagnostics laboratory moves to the Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (H&I) function H&I services remain the same

The [Molecular Diagnostics](#) laboratory is now under the management of the [H&I](#) function. There is no change to the services we provide, including contact details for the laboratories, the sample referral process and reporting.

An Extension to Scope has been submitted to UKAS to move Molecular Diagnostics activities from 9765 to 9239.

Dr. Katy Latham - National Head of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics

Latest versions of H&I laboratory test request forms available from 31 October Please withdraw and destroy all previous versions

The forms are published on the [H&I web page](#) or you can order from our labs:

Barnsley 0122 686 8241

Birmingham 0121 278 4108

Colindale 0208 957 2812

Filton (Bristol) 0117 912 5733

Newcastle 0191 202 4410

Tooting 0203 123 8347

Dr. Katy Latham - National Head of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics

Latest versions of user guides for Fetal *RHD* screening and for referring other samples to Molecular Diagnostics are now available on the IBGRL website

- [Fetal *RHD* screening user guide](#)
- [Referring samples to Molecular Diagnostics](#)

Dr. Katy Latham - National Head of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics

Blood pack changes from November

We recently awarded a new contract for blood pack supply from November 2023 onwards.

You will be aware from previous communications, that we were undertaking validation on the new blood packs as part of our tender process. The validations were successful, and we are now ready to implement these packs from the new suppliers.

The majority of blood packs will not change, with the exception of some minor cosmetic changes to the pack base label. These changes will mostly be covered by NHSBT product and ABO labelling. The pack reference and lot number barcodes are still visible at the bottom of the base label.

A change of supplier applies to these, only:

Neonatal Platelets

Previous supplier - Macopharma

New supplier - Fresenius Kabi

Differences - port covering tears horizontally not vertically

Clinical buffy coats & some apheresis FFP

Previous supplier - Macopharma

New supplier - Fresenius Kabi

Differences - port covering tears horizontally not vertically; clearer in colour

The switch over to the new suppliers will take place from November. You'll continue to see blood packs from the current suppliers for an extended period until we've depleted our stock.

We'll also be doing some validation work of additional suppliers, to ensure we have robust business continuity. You'll only see minor cosmetic changes with these blood packs.

If you have any queries, please contact your Hospital Service department or Customer Service Manager.

Jane Davies - Assistant Head of Manufacturing Development.

The Update is produced by Hospital Customer Service on behalf of NHS Blood and Transplant

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