

The Update for March 2024

QS138 Quality Insights Audit Tool

Announced as a finalist in the 2024 HSJ Digital Awards Driving Change through Data and Analytics category AND a key recommendation in the 2023 National Comparative Audit of NICE Blood Transfusion Quality Standard QS138 report. See our updated [website](#) for details.

Anwen Davies - Patient Blood Management Practitioner, Patient Blood Management Team

NHSBT transfusion courses Funded places now available

Booking opens for our Transfusion Science and transfusion medicine courses from April 1st. We have an increased number of NHSE funded places available for staff working in NHS roles in England. This includes our popular courses; Practical introduction to Transfusion Science, Specialist Transfusion Science Practice and Advanced Transfusion Masterclass.

Please access the [Learning Centre](#) for details and bookings or e-mail Scientificandclinicaltra@nhsbt.nhs.uk

Ruth Evans - Scientific and Clinical Training and Education Lead, Scientific and Clinical Training and Education

Virtual Reality training Blood typing

The 'Blood Identification' app was developed in partnership with Make Real and is available to download on the [Meta Quest App Lab store](#)

The Virtual Reality (VR) app is intended to be used as a training tool primarily for potential doctors, scientists or college students interested in science. It enables people to practice their skills in a safe environment, without having to waste any donated units or other resources and where no harm can come to the patient.

It also has the potential to make training more independent, reducing the burden on staff having to provide 1-2-1 supervision. NHSBT are breaking ground in VR training demonstrating our innovative ongoing approach to training and education

Ruth Evans - Scientific and Clinical Training and Education Lead, Scientific and Clinical Training and Education

**National Haemoglobinopathy Registry
Sharing Antibody Data**

NHSBT red cell antibody data is now available in the National Haemoglobinopathy Registry (NHR). Daily transfers will keep it contemporaneous.

It is important to remember that the haemoglobinopathy centre where the patient is treated will need to be contacted to ensure that no new or historical antibodies have been identified that are not on the NHR.

As patients may have been transfused at other centres to their normal haemoglobinopathy centre it is important to ensure you have confirmed transfusion history with the patient.

Please can all centres looking after patients with haemoglobinopathies ensure that their laboratory data on red cell antibodies is entered on the NHR to ensure the NHR holds a relatively complete data set of antibodies for a patient.

The NHR now has write access for all registered users so transfusion data can be entered for patients not treated with your centre currently.

I cannot stress the importance of doing this enough, as historical antibodies that are no longer detectable remain a major risk for patients requiring blood transfusion, particularly when the transfusion is undertaken urgently to manage a complication.

If you do not have access to the NHR please contact your haemoglobinopathy lead and they can ensure access is provided.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the MDSAS, NHSE and NHSBT project team in delivering this this important patient safety improvement for the NHR.

Dr Farrukh Shah - Chair NHR, Medical Director-Transfusion, NHS Blood and Transplant

**Component irradiation
Label update**

We currently use both gamma and x-ray to irradiate components and are extending the use of x-ray. The type of irradiation is shown on the indication label. There is no impact on component quality.

Kate Joynes - Lead Specialist - Manufacturing Development, Technical and Scientific Development

**RCI Analysers
Move to Grifols**

RCI are currently validating Grifols analysers across our sites. Go live is planned for end April/early May. We do not expect any impact to your services. UKAS have been informed.

Kelly Cripps - RCI Quality Specialist, RCI