

The Update for April 2025

If you need to contact the RCI team outside of working hours, please go via Hospital Services

If you need to speak with a member of the RCI team or have an urgent matter outside of our working hours, please contact Hospital Services for immediate assistance. They will direct you to the appropriate person in RCI. Telephone numbers for Hospital Services are available on the [contact us](#) webpage.

The working hours for the labs vary, please see the [contact RCI labs](#) webpage for details.

Wisdom Musabaike - Assistant Director, Red Cell Immunohaematology

Efficient ordering of HLA-matched platelets to support timely patient care

To avoid delays when you submit a request, please note the following:

- If you know the patient has received HLA selected platelets previously, please select 'Order for known patient'
- If you're unsure if the patient has received HLA selected platelets previously, please telephone the H&I platelet desk on 0208 957 2814 to check
- If you're unable to telephone due to time pressures, then submit as a known patient. This will either expedite processing or prompt H&I to contact the hospital for further information

Using the correct request (either a first-time order or order for a known patient) helps speed up issue times and prevents delays to patient care.

Kirti Mepani - Clinical Scientist, H&I

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NHS England sickle cell and thalassaemia blood group genotyping test - patient referral and programme extension. Testing remains free of charge until 30 June 2025

Blood group genotyping programme

The NHS England Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia blood group genotyping programme will continue to provide free-of-charge testing to hospitals until 30 June 2025.

Patients not yet referred

Please check your patient lists and submit samples for those patients not yet referred to the programme.

Programme extension

We are working closely with NHS England to secure additional funding to support testing beyond June 2025. We will update you as soon as we can.

Guidance for submitting a sample

[Please refer to the guidance when submitting samples](#) ensuring referral forms are fully complete, consented and the sample tube is signed and dated.

Monthly sample and referral data

If you would like a list of patients whose samples have been received, accepted or rejected from your hospital, please email Transfusion@nhsbt.nhs.uk providing the hospital(s) name and the email address of a named Consultant, or clinical lead.

Rejection reports

We are processing samples and referrals as soon we receive them and making the rejection reports available on [Sp-ICE](#).

Genotyping results reporting

Our teams are working to issue results as soon as possible. We will notify the relevant teams in hospitals before issuing genotyping reports.

Genomics Programme Team, NHSBT

Please support the clinical audit of RCI on-call referrals starting 1 June 2025

As we are experiencing an increasing number of on-call referrals we're undertaking a national re-audit (the last one was in 2017) of on-call activity, to provide insight into the significant developments in our workload: since 2017 there has been a 31% increase.

The objectives of the audit are to assess:

- the characteristics of referrals to RCI laboratories outside of core hours

- the proportion of units that were cross-matched on-call, which were transfused during, or within three hours of, the out-of-hours period

RCI staff conducting the audit may be in touch to collect supporting data and we would be grateful if you would help.

The audit period may vary between RCI laboratories in line with activity levels, but we anticipate data collection will be completed by the end of September 2025.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Wisdom Musabaike - Assistant Director, RCI

The go-live date for RCI Assist has been postponed, we apologise for the delay

We are working with Clinysis to resolve a technical issue accessing RCI Assist via Sp-ICE. We will notify you as soon as is resolved.

Thank you for your patience and we apologise for the delay.

If you would like any training for RCI Assist either by Teams, or face-to-face, please contact helen.thom@nhsbt.nhs.uk

Helen Thom - RCI Development Lead. Transfusion 2024

Our blood components and transport price list for 2025 to 2026 is now available

The prices for NHSBT blood components and transport have now been agreed through the National Commissioning Group for Blood.

The price list is published on the [Portfolio and prices](#) webpage.

Chris Philips - Head of Hospital Customer Service

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

NHSBT.customerservice@nhsbt.nhs.uk

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