Non-medical Authorisation of Blood Components 2026/27

What is the aim of the course?

This course provides education on the fundamentals of clinical transfusion practice needed to authorise blood components (as defined in the "Human Medicines Regulations" 2012), as described in the "Clinical Decision-Making and Authorising Blood Component Transfusion - A Framework to Support Non-Medical Healthcare Professionals" (2022).

Completion of the course is not evidence of competence, therefore NHSBT and the Royal College of Nursing cannot confirm the competency of any delegate who has attended our course. The course must be followed by supervision, mentoring and completion of clinical competencies in practice, as per local organisational policies.

Who is the course for?

The course is suitable for registered and regulated health care professionals, where their professional standards include scope for blood component authorisation.

What is the course fee?

The fee is £350 per delegate, to be paid via purchase order or card payment. VAT is not applicable on course fees.

What is the structure of the course?

The course is delivered virtually over four consecutive days. Times may vary slightly but will be within the core hours of 09:00 to 13:00; details of the exact course times will be forwarded in advance of the course.

What are the key learning outcomes?

The key learning outcomes are:

- Describe the key aspects of blood transfusion legislation in the UK
- Explain the importance of blood group antibodies, pre-transfusion and compatibility testing
- Identify the causes and treatment of anaemia and use of alternatives to blood transfusion
- Describe red blood cell production, maintaining haemostasis and how to interpret laboratory results
- Explain the classification and management of acute bleeding, including transfusion in a pre-hospital setting
- Describe patient focussed decision making including risks versus benefits, transfusion alternatives, patient preference, and indications for use of red cells, platelets and plasma blood components
- Explain the legal aspects of consent in the UK and considerations for patients who refuse a blood transfusion
- Identify the indications for patient specific blood component requirements, including irradiation, CMV negative, phenotype matched
- List the steps taken for the identification of transfusion reactions, minimising the risks and adverse events associated with blood transfusion
- Describe the hazards of transfusion and reporting adverse events and reactions

What are the pre-course mandatory requirements for delegates?

The delegates must:

- be up to date with local organisational transfusion training
- be compliant with relevant transfusion competencies required within their role

- be in an area of clinical practice where it is relevant to make the clinical decision to transfuse and authorise blood components
- have approval to undertake the course from their line manager and transfusion practitioner or equivalent organisational governance body
- arrange an appropriate clinical mentor to support learning in practice
- ensure the organisation has a policy, competency assessment process and documentation in place for NMA practice
- ensure funding for the course has been approved

What are the pre-course knowledge requirements?

Prior to the attending the course delegates must have a baseline knowledge of transfusion practice. This is evidenced by completion within the last three years of the following modules:

Blood Transfusion Training (BTT):

- Essential Transfusion Practice
- Blood Components
- Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT)

Delegates may provide certificates of completion for the above modules, or they can be completed via the NHSBT e-learning platform. Details of additional pre-course requirements will be provided.

Where can I find the course dates?

Course dates are released in advance and are included in the application form which is published on the Hospitals and Science website:

https://hospital.blood.co.uk/training/clinical-courses/

What is the application process?

The application form must be completed in full including:

- Line manager’s name and current email address
- Transfusion practitioner’s name and current email address
- Evidence of funding (e.g. copy of the purchase order)
- Completion of declarations

Failure to provide all the required information will result in your application not being processed.

For general enquires, contact
pbm.team@nhsbt.nhs.uk