

## The Update for March 2026

### **NICE publish updated tranexamic acid (TXA) guidance in NG24 and QS138 Quality Standard QS138 Quality Insights under review**

Released in February 2026, the guidance aims to simplify decision-making for clinicians, improve patient safety, and reduce pressure on precious NHS blood supplies.

[Read the updated guidance](#)

The associated Quality Standard QS138 Quality Statement 2 has also been updated, removing the previous expected moderate blood loss criterium for tranexamic acid (TXA) use.

[Read the updated quality standard](#)

Our QS138 Quality Insights quality improvement tool resources are currently under review alongside the QS138 update; users will be notified when this alignment process is complete.

Anwen Davies - Patient Blood Management Practitioner, Patient Blood Management

### **National Laboratory Manager's Advisory Group webinars for 2026**

Last year the National Laboratory Manager's (NTLM) Advisory Group introduced monthly webinars for transfusion laboratory managers and senior transfusion laboratory staff to provide a platform for support, discussion, and the opportunity to ask questions.

Scheduled topics for this year include the blood compliance report (BCR), how to investigate a laboratory incident and business continuity.

For details of upcoming webinars see the [events webpage](#) on the National Blood Transfusion Committee (NBTC) website. For previous webinars, please see the [documents and resources webpage](#)

Jane Murphy - Northwest Regional Transfusion Committee Administrator, Clinical Services

### **New criteria for the labelling requirements for demand printed labels for samples referred for diagnostic testing**

We have revised the criteria to clarify the mandatory sample labelling requirements for hospitals to use demand printed labels (DPLs).

If your hospital currently uses DPLs which do not meet the revised criteria your NHS blood and Transplant customer service manager will be in touch to request your hospital update their DPLs and provide an example of the updated label, to demonstrate compliance with the revised criteria.

Information about applying to use DPLs including the new labelling requirements is provided on the application form.

[Go to the application form](#)

Wasim Hussain - Customer Services Manager, Hospital Customer Services

## **The Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) newsletter for March is now available**

### **Sign up to receive the monthly newsletter**

The highlights in this newsletter are:

- The new major haemorrhage simulation toolkit
- Case studies to every Annual SHOT report are published
- Bursary applications open for the 2026 Annual SHOT Symposium
- National Comparative Audit of Anti-D immunoglobulin starting in April 2026

[Read the newsletter](#)

[Sign up](#) to receive the newsletter every month.

Claire Wroe - SHOT Clinical Incident Specialist

## **Component and Diagnostic Services pricing for 2026 to 2027 will be confirmed soon**

The National Commissioning Group for Blood (NCG) meeting took place in late February 2026. This group confirms the contract and pricing for blood components and diagnostic services. However, the process is not yet complete and we are not able to publish a price list yet.

Once the proposal has been finalised, the Department of Health and Social Care will communicate the outcome directly on behalf of the NCG.

Following this, we will write and confirm contract values, net impact statements and issue price lists. Although we cannot be precise around the dates of these steps, we are working on the assumption that we will require interim arrangements to be in place for April and May billing.

Full details have been sent to your Trust's finance director.

Chris Philips – Head of Hospital Customer Service

## **Invitation to participate in the 2026 update of the James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership in blood transfusion and blood donation**

The first James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership (JLA PSP) in Blood Transfusion and Blood Donation was completed in 2018. Its aim was to spotlight the unanswered questions about blood transfusion and blood donation and to prioritise them for future research. Since then while new research has been undertaken and new avenues of research have emerged, we know there remain many unanswered questions.

During 2026 and 2027, we will be using JLA methodology to update the original PSP. Our aim is to identify new questions for research that will address ongoing important treatment uncertainties in the field of blood transfusion and blood donation. This update is being undertaken by the Systematic Review Initiative (a clinical research team in NHS Blood and Transplant who led the original PSP) and the Transfusion Research Network.

We invite you to participate in the first stage of this update by completing a short survey which will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and contains three sections:

- First, we ask you whether any of the previous top 10 research questions are currently important to you?
- Second, we ask you for your ideas for future research to improve the experience of people who have received a blood transfusion or who donate blood.
- Third, we ask a few things about you (for example, age, area of work etc)

Please share the survey with any UK based responders, colleagues or persons who may be interested in this work.

After the survey closes the next steps are:

1. Grouping similar questions and adding new questions to the list of unanswered questions from the original PSP. This set of questions is referred to as indicative questions.
2. Searching the published and ongoing evidence bases to identify evidence relevant to any of the indicative questions.
3. Assessing the quality of the identified evidence using the same assessment criteria as for the original PSP.
4. Small consultation groups will decide whether the evidence identified answers the research question. If yes, the research question is marked as answered and parked. If no, the 'unanswered' research question is moved into the final stage of the project.
5. A prioritisation workshop (face-to-face over a full day) will run next summer in Birmingham. The focus of the workshop is for the attendees to rank the unanswered research questions for the priority in which they should be addressed in a research environment.

If you completed the survey, you will be invited to join the workshop.

For information on the project and the survey please contact Susan Brunskill on [susan.brunskill@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:susan.brunskill@nhsbt.nhs.uk)

This James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership update for Blood Transfusion and Blood Donation is being led by:

Laura Baglow-Micic - Transfusion Research Network Manager

Susan Brunskill - Systematic Review Initiative Manager, NHS Blood and Transplant

Dr Michael Desborough - Consultant Haematologist and Clinical lead of the Transfusion Research Network

Professor Lise Estcourt - Clinical Lead for the Systematic Review Initiative and Medical Director Transfusion, NHS Blood and Transplant

Anna Mamwell - Patient and Public Involvement & Engagement Officer, Transfusion Research Network

[Take the survey](#)

Laura Baglow-Micic - Transfusion Research Network Manager, Transfusion

### **Record response rate to the spring 2026 customer satisfaction survey**

Thank you to the transfusion laboratory managers, and hospital staff, who completed our spring survey. The response to this survey was a record high at 72%.

We'll be sharing the results in our hospital user group meetings as well as publishing the results on the customer satisfaction webpage.

Delia Smith - Projects and Customer Insights Manager, Hospital Customer Service

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

[NHSBT.customerservice@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:NHSBT.customerservice@nhsbt.nhs.uk)

**0208 201 3107**