



Blood and Transplant

The Update for April 2026

Practical Transfusion Medicine - 7th edition

The 7th edition has been updated significantly to reflect the rapid changes in transfusion medicine with new scientific and technological developments, and continuing efforts to improve transfusion practice, and in medicine more broadly.

The primary purpose of the book is to provide a comprehensive and practical guide to transfusion medicine.

The editors, Mike Murphy, Nancy Dunbar and Erica Wood, present an accessible edition that will be useful to all clinical and scientific staff and trainees, who are involved in transfusion medicine.

The book takes the reader through the principles of transfusion medicine, its evidence base, practice in blood centres and hospitals, clinical transfusion practice, the complications of transfusion, and cellular and tissue therapy.

You can purchase the book at Wiley.com or find it on a variety of other online storefronts.

Prof. Mike Murphy, Consultant Haematologist, NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

RCI diagnostic samples

We are experiencing a significant increase in samples received during on-call hours. To help maintain a safe and effective service, only clinically urgent samples should be sent to the on-call service.

Where possible, please send non-urgent samples during routine hours and ensure adequate notice for any urgent referrals. This will help us maintain a safe, timely and effective service.

Laura Hontoria del Hoyo Director of Pathology

Refer correct sample volumes For RCI diagnostic testing

Sending small volume samples for testing significantly impacts RCI Laboratories, Hospital Laboratories and, most importantly, patient care.

Although you will have performed some investigations in your laboratory please supply two 6ml EDTA samples for investigation where possible. The exceptions are shown on the reverse of the form 1A.

We will make every effort to complete investigations when less than optimal sample volumes are received.

However, due to the complexity of many of our cases, we often require a high volume of plasma / cells. It is not always possible for us to accurately assess at the beginning of an investigation whether we will have sufficient sample to complete all testing.

Having to request additional samples result in incomplete processing, additional charges and in some cases delays in blood provision.

We appreciate your cooperation and support in helping us deliver safe, timely and efficient patient care.

Andrew Nawrocki Reference Laboratory Manager, RCI Liverpool

RCI introduce a new genotyping platform National roll out commencing

Genotyping is undertaken in 3 of our RCI laboratories. We'll start the roll out with Barnsley RCI in May 2026, then Tooting and Birmingham in June 2026.

Whilst there is no change to ordering or report format, genotyping results issued from the new platform will not be UKAS accredited during the initial transition period until an Extension to Scope is granted. We will notify users once accreditation is in place.

Robert Lees Senior Clinical Scientist - Red Cell Immunohaematology

The Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) newsletter for April is now available

The highlights in this month's newsletter are:

- Registration for the 2026 Annual SHOT Symposium
- A new Safe Blood Administration Toolkit (including giving set guidance)
- A new SHOT Bite on Shared care insights
- A case study highlighting unnecessary administration of anti-D Ig

[Read the newsletter](#)

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Victoria Tuckley, SHOT Laboratory Incident Specialist