

The Update for June 2026

Transfusion Research Network Newsletter - Spring/Summer 2026 is now available

The latest quarterly newsletter from the Transfusion Research Network, is published. It includes updates on clinical trials which are recruiting, results from the Study of Whole Blood in Frontline Trauma (SWiFT) clinical trial recently published in the New England Journal of Medicine, and opportunities to get involved with transfusion research.

[Spring/Summer 2026 Transfusion Research Network newsletter \(PDF 1505KB\)](#)

Laura Baglow-Micic - Transfusion Research Network Manager, Clinical Services

Critical information required for RCI referrals to avoid transfusing incorrect red cells, inappropriate transfusion, or significant delays.

RCI have recently investigated several incidents where incomplete or absent information provided to RCI by the referring labs has been identified as a contributory factor.

If you have any information on record that will affect the transfusion management or blood selection for your patient, this should be provided on the 1A referral form. Examples of information that should be provided are:

- Antibodies or requirement for antigen negative units recorded on your hospital LIMS
- Special requirements e.g. irradiated, CMV negative, washed etc
- Clinical information that may influence transfusion management such as the patient having a history of hyperhaemolysis

If you are unsure what information to include, RCI will be happy to advise and will refer you to the RCI consultant if you require support with transfusion management.

If any critical information is not provided to RCI, this may result in incorrect blood selection or sub optimal transfusion management which may lead to transfusion of incorrect red cells, inappropriate transfusion, or significant delays.

Julia Mahmood - Head of Lab, RCI Colindale

Basic Introduction to Transfusion Science (BITS) is now available for anyone with an interest in transfusion

The BITS course is particularly suited to staff working alongside biomedical scientists within transfusion laboratories, trainee biomedical scientists as well as non-scientific staff who would benefit from a greater understanding of the scientific principles underpinning transfusion practice.

The course introduces the principles and practice of blood transfusion through a blended programme of online learning and a practical laboratory day. Participants will develop their understanding of key transfusion science concepts and gain hands-on experience in a training laboratory environment.

It has an established track record helping participants build confidence and broaden their understanding of transfusion science.

A number of [NHS England fully funded places](#) will be available for eligible participants working within the NHS.

Find full course details, dates and booking information on the [Transfusion Science Academy](#)

Alison Hines - Scientific and Clinical Training and Education Manager, Scientific and Clinical Training and Education Team

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

The highlights in this newsletter are:

- 2026 Annual SHOT Symposium, 10 July, registration information - places are still available
- Updated resources related to the SHOT Transfusion Safety Standards and SHOT Bite No. 11
- New Information Technology Cumulative Data page
- MHRA Device Safety Information and Safe Blood Administration toolkit
- Celebrating the World Blood Donor Day and relevant resources

[Read the newsletter](#)

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

The SHOT team

Extension to NHSE-NHSBT Blood Group Genotyping programme for patients with sickle cell, thalassemia, and rare inherited anaemias

The programme will continue to accept patient samples and referrals for testing until 30 September 2026.

We are seeking additional funding so this test can continue to be 'free of charge' for hospitals. If this funding application is not successful, the price per test will be £93.25 for samples received after 30 June. We will notify you as soon as possible regarding the outcome of this funding application.

Kate Downes - NHSBT Genomics Programme Director

HLA Selected Red Cell Service for Renal Transplant Patients

Following a successful pilot in April 2024, NHS Blood and Transplant is rolling out the HLA Selected Red Cell Service for UK wide renal transplant patients.

This service provides access to HLA selected red cells for eligible renal transplant patients to reduce the risk of HLA sensitisation and graft rejection and improve transplant outcomes.

What this means for blood transfusion labs

As NHS Blood and Transplant rolls out the HLA selected red cell service to transplant centres across the UK, you may be asked to support the implementation of local processes for requesting HLA selected red cells.

For more information about this service, please register your interest by using the link here:

[NHS Blood and Transplant HLA Selected Red Cell Service - Expression of Interest - Fill out form](#)

Kate Downes - Genomics Programme Director, Clinical Service

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

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