

The Update for September 2026

Patient Blood Management England virtual conference 2026 'Blood Health in Specialist Populations' on 4 November

Join us for our flagship annual conference, taking place during PBM Awareness Week 2026 (2 to 6 November). Hear from an inspiring lineup of speakers as they explore blood health in specialist populations and share the latest developments in patient blood management.

[Register to attend](#)

Aimee Burtenshaw - Patient Blood Management Practitioner, Clinical Services

QS138 Quality Insights updated to reflect NICE TXA eligibility changes to QS138 Quality Standard, September 2026

In February 2026, NICE updated their NG24 guidance, recommending broader use of tranexamic acid (TXA). The associated QS138 Quality Statement 2 also changed, removing the previous expected blood loss criterion.

Quality Statement 2 now assesses whether adults having surgery in an operating theatre where there is any risk of bleeding and the procedure breaches the skin or mucous membrane receive TXA.

[Read the updated quality standard](#)

To reflect this change, our QS138 Quality Insights quality improvement tool has been updated, reflected on our data entry platform and printable compliance reports. An interim addendum to the QS138 Quality Insights' hospital user guide has been published, with updated advice on audit population selection.

[Read the QS138 Quality Insights interim addendum](#)

Anwen Davies - Patient Blood Management Practitioner, Patient Blood Management

Requests for additional crossmatches from RCI require a request form

We would like to remind hospitals that requests for us to crossmatch additional units you need to send another [request form](#) with the sample details and the number of units required. You can fax or email the form to the relevant [RCI lab](#). We cannot label and issue units for any requests until we receive the request form.

Andrew Nawrocki - Interim Head of Laboratory, RCI Reference Liverpool

Places available on Transfusion Science courses - NHS England funded places are available

There's still time to book your place on our autumn/winter transfusion science courses, including:

- Basic Introduction to Transfusion Science (BITS)
- Practical Introduction to Transfusion Science (PITS)
- Specialist Transfusion Science Practice (STSP)
- Advanced Transfusion Masterclass

Additional practical dates for the BITS course

Due to popular demand, we have released additional practical dates for this course. This introductory level 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.

Find full course details, dates, and booking information on the [Transfusion Science Academy](#)
[NHS England funded places](#) are available for eligible participants.

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

Have your voice heard in NHS Blood and Transplant Ways you can ensure your voice is heard to represent the interests of your hospital and patients

Hearing from you is vital to us at NHSBT as it helps us with demand planning for blood components and diagnostic services; what you tell us about your hospital's demand for these, feeds all the way through to blood donor activity and our diagnostic capacity planning.

Outlined below are some of the ways we offer for you to speak:.

Customer service managers' meetings with hospital laboratory managers or senior laboratory staff

These meetings are part of our commitment to you within the Blood Component Contract and their purpose is to:

- review how our services are supporting your hospital
- discuss current and future demand for blood components and services

- understand any changes in hospital activity that may affect requirements,
- address any incidents, concerns, or complaints

Visiting your hospital is the most useful, however virtual meetings are also arranged.

User groups

User groups are a great way to get involved with NHSBT and meet up with other hospital colleagues in the region. The groups meet several times a year with NHSBT updates and opportunity to discuss matters of interest. Whilst important for laboratory managers to attend, we welcome senior laboratory staff to assist with representation and personal development.

Satisfaction survey

Twice a year we ask you to complete a short satisfaction survey addressing our services in issuing blood components, diagnostic testing, deliveries, and the support we provide.

We greatly value your participation as it supports us in maintaining high standards of service and our diagnostic accreditations, and importantly, we share your comments with teams across NHSBT, ensuring your voice is heard.

Chris Philips - Head of Hospital Customer Service

Extension to 'free of charge' testing for the NHSE-NHSBT Blood Group Genotyping project to 30 March 2027

The NHSBT Blood Group Genotyping Programme for patients with sickle cell, thalassemia and transfusion dependent rare inherited anaemias will continue to accept patient samples and referrals for 'free of charge' DNA array testing until 31 March 2027.

This 6-month extension provides an important opportunity to ensure that all eligible patients are offered blood group genotyping. We encourage clinical teams to identify and refer eligible patients who have not yet been genotyped, including those with sickle cell and thalassemia who are not currently regularly transfused.

See guidance [here](#)

Kate Downes - NHSBT Genomics Programme Director

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

The newsletter contains key updates about haemovigilance activities and resources for organisations across the UK.

Highlights in this month's newsletter include:

- SHOT achieves PIF TICK accreditation
- New SHOT Human Factors and Ergonomics (HFE) courses announced

- SHOT shortlisted for to national awards
- ACE (Acknowledging Continuing Excellence) call for submissions
- Cases from the 2025 Annual SHOT report are now available

[Read the SHOT newsletter](#)

The SHOT team

Thank you for completing our autumn 2026 customer satisfaction survey from the Hospital Customer Service team

The survey closed on 27 September. We would like to thank customers for providing feedback on NHSBT services. Once available, we will share the results at hospital user group meetings and through service review meetings.

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

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