NHS Blood and Transplant

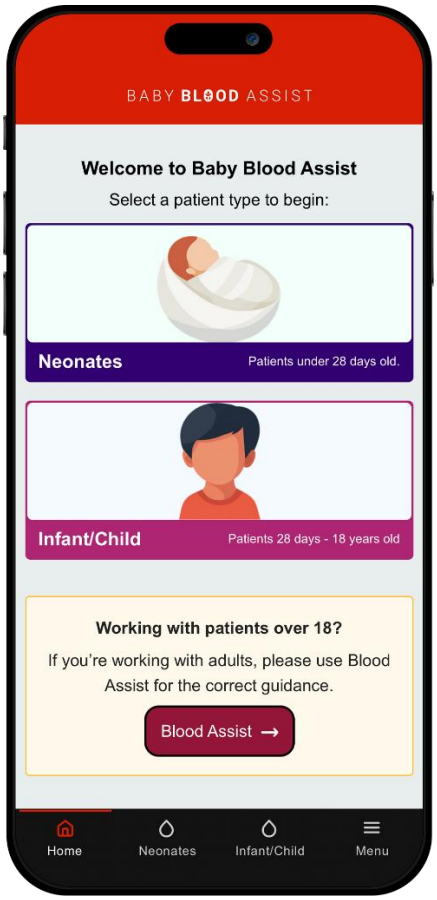
The Update for October 2026

Introducing Baby Blood Assist, free bedside patient safety app, and website

Launching on 4 November, as part of Patient Blood Management (PBM) Awareness Week 2026, Baby Blood Assist is a free bedside patient safety app and website. It provides a summary of key transfusion recommendations for neonates, infants and children at your fingertips.

Designed for healthcare professionals, available on Apple, Android and web platforms, it supports clinical decision making and safe practice at each stage of blood transfusion administration.

Together with Blood Assist (for patients over 18), it offers a complete digital resource package for safe transfusion across all patient groups.



Charlotte Longhorn, PBM Practitioner, Patient Blood Management Team

Transfer of the Molecular Diagnostics webpages to the Hospitals and Science website on 11 January 2027

The Molecular Diagnostics laboratory is now part of the Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (H&I) function. As a result of this change, the Molecular Diagnostics' webpages will be moving from their current location on the IBGRL website to the Diagnostic services section of the Hospitals and Science website.

There is no change to the services, including the sample referral process or reporting. Contact details for the laboratory are unchanged.

Dr Katy Latham - Assistant Director of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics, Consultant Clinical Scientist

Joint NHSBT and UKHSA Epidemiology Unit 2025 annual review is now available

The latest annual review of the NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) and UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Epidemiology Unit has been published on the NHSBT's Hospitals and Science website.

This year's review highlights advances in donor selection, testing, surveillance and how partnership working have strengthened the safety of blood, tissues and organs over the past 30 years. While infection risks remain very low, continued vigilance is essential as new and emerging infectious threats evolve.

In summary:

- There were no confirmed transfusion-transmitted infections among 110 investigated cases.
- Infection rates remain very low, with 272 donors withdrawn in 2025 for markers of HBV, HCV, HIV, HTLV or syphilis. Only one repeat donor showed evidence of a recent HBV, HCV or HIV infection.
- The risk of blood donation testing missing HBV, HIV or HCV due to a window period donation remains extremely low at around 1 per million donations tested.
- Blood donor selection changes introduced in 2021 have had no impact on blood safety.
- Most donors disclose potential infection risks before donating, although post-test discussions identified risks that made them ineligible under donor selection criteria
- Evidence of current or past infection in other donor groups, including organ, tissue and cord blood donors, also remained rare in 2025.
- Close collaboration with UKHSA helps ensure rapid responses to emerging infectious disease threats and supports public health surveillance.

To access the annual report and to find out more about NHSBT/UKHSA Epidemiology Unit, visit the Epidemiology webpage

Tali Yawitch - Scientist, Joint NHSBT/UKHSA Epidemiology Unit

NHSBT transport boxes - appropriate use

We would like to remind hospitals about using the boxes appropriately.

The boxes may be used for transporting blood components both within a hospital and between hospitals. They must be used for blood components and not for transporting or storing any other items.

To ensure the continued availability and integrity of these specialised boxes, please ensure you use them for their intended purpose and return them when no longer required.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in maintaining the safe and efficient movement of blood components.

Hospital Customer Service

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

The highlights in this newsletter include:

- SHOT announced as runner up in the Picker Experience Network Awards 2026
- New SHOT contact form for support with projects
- New SHOT Bites on Fatigue
- SHOT CPD form to help track your learning
- Spotlight on Incorrect Blood Component Transfused chapter in the 2025 Annual SHOT Report
- Last remaining places available for the free SHOT Human Factors and Ergonomics virtual courses

To access further information and these resources read the newsletter and sign up to receive the newsletter every month.

We hope you enjoy reading!

The SHOT team

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