

Transfusion Research Network Newsletter

NHS
Blood and Transplant

Winter 2025

We're delighted to share the second quarterly newsletter from the Transfusion Research Network (TRN). In this issue, you'll find:

- Highlights of what the TRN team has been working on
- Updates on current research projects
- Ways you can get involved

We'd love to hear from you! If you have questions or want more information, just drop us an email at:
 transfusionresearchnetwork@nhsbt.nhs.uk



If you want to subscribe to future editions of this newsletter please click [here](#).

Introducing the Transfusion Research Network



We have recently welcomed representatives from Wales, Northern Ireland and Scottish blood services to our steering group and we would like to introduce ourselves to our colleagues from these nations.

Created by the Transfusion 2024 team within NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), the TRN was established with clear aims for advancing transfusion research:



Our Key Aims

- ⌚ Expedite the delivery of transfusion trials
- 📊 Provide evidence to improve outcomes in more diverse populations
- ⚖️ Address health inequalities
- 👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Increase the role of patients and the public in transfusion research

We're a small but ambitious network, and your input is vital to help shape priorities, overcome barriers, and build collaborative projects that make a real difference.

Membership is free and open to anyone with an interest in the field—just email us using the address above, or subscribe using the link.

PROPHESY-II: Working Together for Better Transfusion Research



We're excited to spotlight PROPHESY-II, a trial that brings clinical teams and transfusion labs together to answer an important question: is prothrombin complex concentrate (PCC) better than fresh frozen plasma (FFP) for patients who bleed within 24 hours of cardiac surgery?



How are transfusion laboratory teams involved?

Laboratory teams play a key role by storing products safely and randomising patients. Laboratories have received extra training & insight on the running of clinical trials, while the TRN have supported the process with training, site visits, and data collection on setup costs.

Why is this clinical trial important?

- It shows how involving laboratories can shape trial design and make future studies easier to run.
- The protocol fits smoothly into everyday practice and encourages more people to get involved in transfusion research.
- It also highlights the work the research teams need to do to involve transfusion laboratories in research in the future.

Progress so far



So far, **8** sites are live, **68** patients have been enrolled (out of a planned total of **498**), and we expect a total of **11** sites to be active by the end of 2025.

The TRN is producing a piece of work illustrating the benefits of designing a trial in this manner, watch this space!

Gender in Transfusion Science Survey

Alex Liversidge, Senior Lecturer at Leeds Beckett University, has launched a survey to identify potential patient safety issues of blood transfusion in Assigned Female at Birth Transgender and Diverse service users.

If you would like to shape recommendations and share learning about management of this subset of patients please fill in the survey and share your experience here
<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/school-of-health/transfusion-lab-survey>.



LEEDS BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

TRN Year 2 plans - James Lind Alliance

We're excited to share that one of our major goals for next year is to work closely with the Systematic Review Initiative to refresh the James Lind Alliance (JLA) priorities for blood transfusion and blood donation.

For those who don't know, the James Lind Alliance is a fantastic non-profit initiative that brings together patients, carers, and researchers to identify and agree on the most important unanswered questions in healthcare.

Through a Priority Setting Partnership (PSP), we'll collaborate to make sure research in transfusion and donation focuses on what really matters.

What's happening first?

We'll soon be reaching out to stakeholders to review the current list of research questions. You can take a look at the existing priorities here:

<https://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/priority-setting-partnerships/blood-transfusion-and-blood-donation#tab-top-10-priorities>



What's next?

- 1) Gather feedback and identify any new questions.
- 2) Host a workshop in late 2026 to agree on the final Top 10 priorities.



We'll keep you updated throughout the year and share opportunities to get involved. This is a great chance to shape the future of transfusion and donation research—so stay tuned!

Updates and CPD resources



If you want to hear about recent developments in transfusion check out the Transfusion Evidence Library, a monthly overview of the 10 most important new publications in transfusion medicine. Visit here to sign up <https://confirmsubscription.com/h/t/0D1B081ABE4E1E71>.



Talking Transfusion is a podcast hosted by the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT). Each episode features discussions on the latest research findings, insights from a panel of experts, and reflections on how these studies impact daily practice.

Visit here for more info: <https://tinyurl.com/mv2mv76>