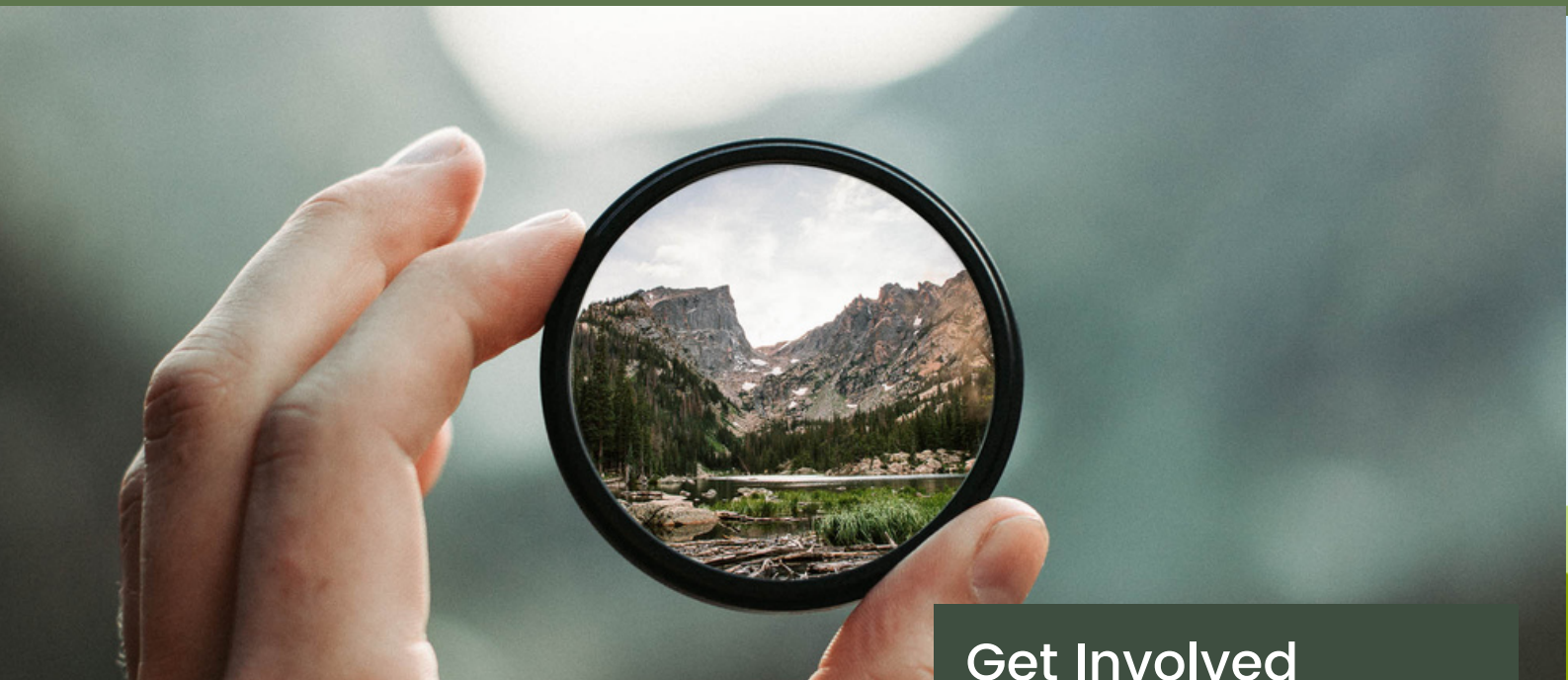


# A New Focus



## A word from the chair

Welcome to your new look quarterly newsletter. The first quarter of the new financial year has come to an end and it has been a busy time for the RTC. All the working groups and committees from the NBTC to the regional working groups have met either formally or informally, face to face and virtually. It has been a period of review and time to focus on setting new goals.

The region demonstrated its commitment to continuous improvement with multiple presentations at the SHOT conference

If you feel inspired by the excellence around you, please nominate a nursing colleague

[Percy Oliver Award  
Nomination](#)

for this years Percy Oliver Award for nurses in Transfusion management (click the box).

We have been joined by several new transfusion practitioners, so a warm welcome to you all. Please engage with the working groups and networks as a source of support and to share knowledge and experience.

We also say farewell to some long standing colleagues. Sally Charlton will be stepping down from the RTT, thank you for all the support you have given.

Rhian Edwards will be leaving for a secondment and will be covered by Carol Stenning as customer services manager for the region.

I hope you enjoy the round up of our latest news and events.

Written on behalf of Stuart Cleland, RTC Chair

## Get Involved

We would like to encourage everyone to use this newsletter as a means to share good practice, highlight the work you are doing and recommend interesting transfusion and PBM related reading.

Please share any content you would like to include in the next edition with your RTC administrator.

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# RTC Update

## Upcoming events

SW PBM work group meeting  
Oake Manor  
26/09/23,

SW TP work group meeting  
Oake Manor  
17/10/23

SW TLM work group meeting  
TBC

SW RTT meeting  
Oake Manor  
13/09/23

SW RTC meeting  
Oake Manor  
22/11/23

Transfusion Matters: Junior  
BMS education event  
via Teams  
04/10/23

BBTS Symposium  
Harrogate Convention Centre  
10-12/10/23  
<https://www.bbts.org.uk/bbts2023/>

## RTC News

The RTC held a face to face meeting at Oake on 24th May, attended by 30 members from the RTC hospitals.

Updates from the NBTC were shared, including work being undertaken to review role descriptions within the RTC, exploring ways to align the working groups with NBTC goals and funding the RTC chair position 1 x PA.

The SW RTC has been chosen to pilot improving engagement with regional ICB directors, to raise the profile of transfusion related matters.

Progress on Transfusion 2024 was shared and hospitals keen to take part in a fetal RhD and RCI pilot are invited to contact [mawa.sall@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:mawa.sall@nhsbt.nhs.uk)

The HTC chair reports highlighted the work done to conserve stocks during the amber alert.

Results of the transfusion survey are available on SharePoint and highlights were shared at the meeting.

The working groups gave their feedback. TLM's discussed a proposal for a regional dashboard for transfusion data, the role of national mentorship for lab managers and SHOT reports on increased number of errors and staffing in labs.

The TP group reported they had ratified the major haemorrhage simulation toolkit and were planning a MH audit.



## RTC News

The PBM workgroup feedback on educational activities and service development following employment of blood conservation practitioners.

A round table discussion to learn from incidents and extraordinary events was well received. Thank you to colleagues from Taunton and Truro for sharing your experiences of major incidents and a never event.

Following lunch the outcomes of a PCC use audit was shared and an update on transfusion research in the military was given.

Click the box below to see the presentations in full.

[RTC meeting slide deck](#)

# RTT Update

## RTT latest

The RTT met virtually on 21/06. Discussion included the SW piloting strengthening ties with the Integrated Care Boards. The aim is to increase visibility of PBM and transfusion issues beyond historical networks.

Work has been undertaken to engage with the SW pathology network and the SW perinatal medicine and obstetric networks. There is an intention to engage with the SW medical directors.

The obstetric networks have been invited to participate in the maternal anaemia survey which closed mid-July. The RTT intends to lead the way improving strategies to identify and treat maternal anaemia. The results will be reported back to the NBTC with consideration given to potentially leading a national initiative.

The regional transfusion survey was discussed. The data collected is available for the working groups, or individuals, to analyse and identify opportunities for improvement and to feed this back at the next RTC meeting.



## RTT latest

The RTT would like to focus on new objectives this year as the previous objective to implement O pos to adult males has been so successful. Encouraging the use of tranexamic acid has been identified as the next region wide project.

Other projects included increasing awareness and knowledge about goal directed treatment using ROTEM or TEG. The RTT is seeking expert speakers to share their knowledge at either the RTC meeting or as a virtual event.

Vein-to-vein tracking was also discussed and consideration is being given to running workshops with input from IT providers.

Consideration has also been given to running a regional non-medical authorisers course due to difficulty accessing the popular NHSBT course. Please share your experiences of running a course like this

## Upcoming events

[BMSEGD 32 The Use of Thromboelastography to guide blood component use 26/07/23](#)

IBMS Congress  
ICC Birmingham  
25-28/09/23  
<https://congress.ibms.org/congress-2023/book-now.html>

Details of all NHSBT Clinical & Scientific Courses:

<https://hospital.blood.co.uk/training/scientific-courses/>

<https://hospital.blood.co.uk/training/clinical-courses/>

BSMS Smarter Inventory Management  
Dates & Details

<https://www.bloodstocks.co.uk/resources/education-events/>

# Working Group Activity

## Transfusion and PBM publications

What Are the Barriers and Facilitators for Critical Care Nurse Participation in a Patient Blood Management Program?.

<https://libkey.io/10.1097/DCC.00000000000585>

Pharmacological interventions for the prevention of bleeding in people undergoing definitive fixation or joint replacement for hip, pelvic and long bone fractures

[https://libkey.io/10.1002/14651858\\_CD013499.pub2](https://libkey.io/10.1002/14651858_CD013499.pub2)

Anemia management and transfusion strategy in internal medicine units: Less is more

<https://libkey.io/10.1016/j.ejim.2023.05.022>

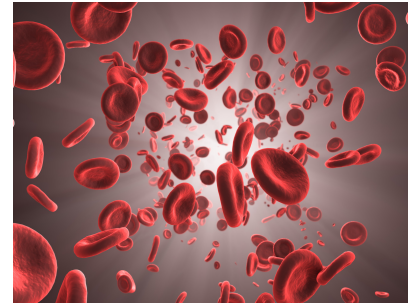
Effect of single-unit transfusion in patients treated for haematological disease including acute leukemia: A multicenter randomized controlled clinical trial  
<https://libkey.io/10.1016/j.leukres.2023.107058>

## PBM WG

The PBM work group held an informal discussion via Teams on 13/06/23. Varied discussion around intraoperative cell salvage provided some queries to take forward to the UK Cell Salvage Group. This included ICS use in set/unset cement in revision surgery, ICS use with sickle cell trait and ICS use in malignancy. TXA in vascular surgery was discussed together with ideas to improve the functionality of the group going forward. It also provided an opportunity to plan ahead for the next meeting which is on 26/09/23 at Oake Manor, Taunton. The PBM group has accessed the results of the recent transfusion survey for further analysis

## TP WG

An informal meeting was held via Teams on 28/06/23. SW RTC has representation on the National BBTS TP Working Group with Karen Mead, NBT, as Chair and Pedro Valle-Vallines, RCHT, as Deputy Chair/Secretary. Discussions took place around the Belmont rapid infuser/250 micron filter size, electronic processes for G&S sampling and the potential for a regional shared care/discharge document for patients discharged from transplant centres. TP benchmarking information was circulated to the SW TP Group to support recruitment and assist with business cases, and risk assessments.



## TLM WG

The TLM meeting was held on 13/07/23 via Teams. The agenda was bustling with exciting topics to discuss, including:  
Shared care across Trusts' regarding stem cell transplants  
New UKTLC standards, specifically relating to access to specialist advice  
PSIRF and risks  
Transfusion and UKAS  
NHSBT concessionary release  
Neonatal emergency blood  
Stock management  
Training courses for lab managers  
Trainee (non-registered) BMS staff within transfusion laboratories  
The meeting was well attended with great positive contributions.

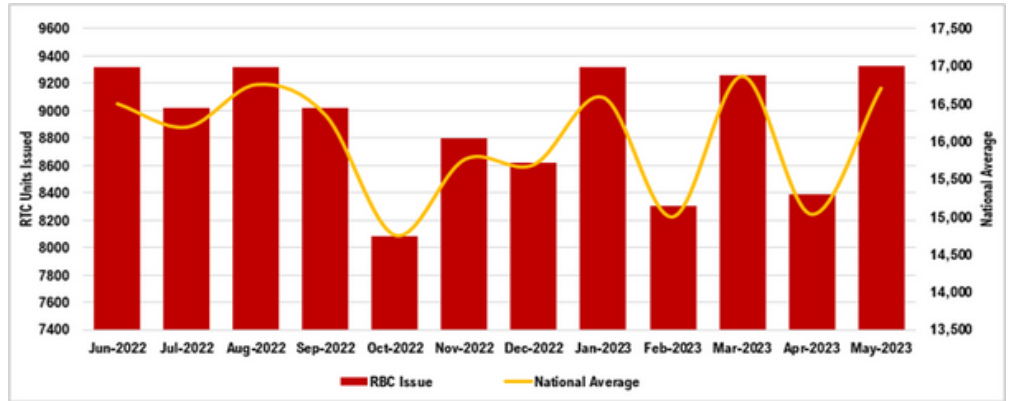
[Blood Stocks Management Scheme Inventory Practice Survey on Frozen Components](#)

[The 2022 NCA Audit of Blood Sample Collection and Labelling](#)

# NHSBT Update

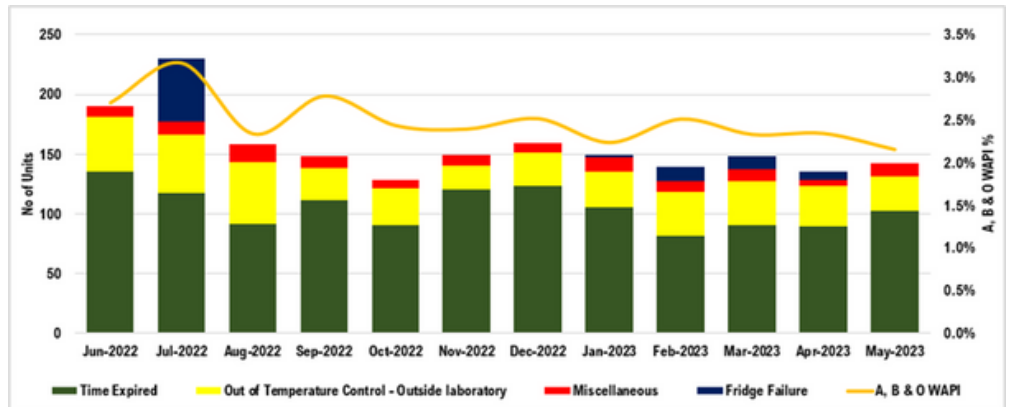
## Red cell issues

The SW RTC has seen fluctuation in red cell issues over the past 12 months, with October showing the largest drop following the Amber alert. SW follows the trend of the National Average.



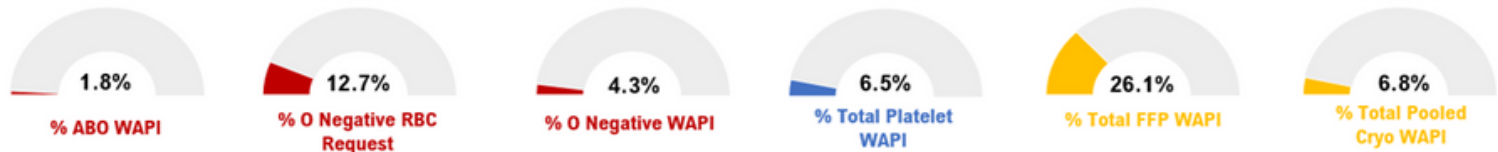
## Red cell wastage

SW RTC wastage was reduced in Oct 22 during the alert and has shown a downward trend since Dec 22. The main reason for wastage is TIMEX followed by OTCOL. TIMEX is often due to overstocking.



**WAPI = wastage as a percentage of issues.** Overall wastage summary for the previous 12 months (Jun 22 – May 23) – as an average for SW RTC.

Headline summary (represented as an average over the 12 month reporting period)



Wastage cost - Indicative cost of wastage represented as full price of standard component wastage over 12 month



12 Month Average Hospitals Wastage reporting %



SW RTC VANESA compliance for wastage data

# Highlights from SHOT

## SW teams lead the way

SHOT launched their Annual Report for 2022 at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester on 04/07/23. The South West was well represented with no fewer than seven of the twenty poster presentations exhibited, originating from teams across the region. The authors of the posters were invited to give a brief oral presentation outlining the content and impact of their work. The posters are attached to the newsletter email as PDF's to help you share innovative ideas.

Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust was highlighted in the SHOT report as a case for Acknowledging Continuing Excellence, for the innovative use of the Take Down Tag pictured below. Congratulations to Pedro and the team



"This is an excellent example of sharing good practice about a process that has been put in place to potentially eradicate excessive time to transfuse errors" SHOT Annual Report 2022

<https://www.shotuk.org/wp-content/uploads/myimages/SHOT-REPORT-2022-FINAL-Bookmarked.pdf>

## SHOT key recommendations

The four key SHOT recommendations for 2022 are:

Appropriate management of anaemia with effective PBM and safe transfusion decisions are vital to improve safety

Well-resourced systems, with adequate numbers of trained staff supported by technology and automation help ensure safe transfusions

System-focused interventions to address gaps identified during incident investigations must be implemented for a sustained improvement

Learning from excellence and day-to-day events will support a proactive approach to safety

Please use the link above to access the full report.

## SHOT Stars

