



South East Regional Transfusion Committee 2024 Activity Summary Report CELEBRATING SUCCESS

The South East Regional Transfusion Committee has had another busy and productive year. In addition to several projects and educational events we have looked closely at the Infected Blood Inquiry report and the lessons to be learned and have seen our QS138 Quality Insights Audit Tool being taken up steadily across the United Kingdom. We also have to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Southampton teams who are continuing to provide an excellent service during very difficult circumstances due to building and development work.

Howard Wakeling, SE RTC Chair

Regional Meetings

Regional Transfusion Committee Business Meeting: The RTC Business meeting was held as a face-to-face event on 27 February in Southampton. The RTC Chair provided an update from recent NBTC meetings. There was also a review of the Workplan for 2024, Hospitals updates, a short presentation on Pathology Networks, and updates from the PBMP, and CSMs.

Regional Transfusion Team (RTT) There have been five meetings this year – 7 February, 12 March, 8 May, 24 September, 11 December. A new member was welcomed at the May meeting, and alongside standing agenda items, the following featured in meetings across the year. The Southampton building issues have been challenging for all staff involved; the new process for education events was introduced – topics provided by NBTC; the success of the Insight tool; setting up working groups, and the fragile state of blood stocks. The ongoing **Amber Alert** (since July) has focussed teams on stock keeping, improving wastage figures, and responding to the actions recommended following regular meetings, with members from the South East and NHSBT.



IBI Report - An extra RTT Meeting was called on 18 June to review the [IBI Report](#) (published on 20 May) and its recommendations, and how the South East can reflect these within the workplan for the coming year. The region is awaiting the NHSE and NBTC response to priorities moving forward. There are colleagues within the South East sitting on working groups - Catherine Lorenzen is on the Sub-Group for the IBI Recommendation 7e: *That all NHS organisations across the UK have a mechanism in place for implementing recommendations of SHOT reports, which should be professionally mandated, and for monitoring such implementation.*

Transfusion Laboratory Manager (TLM) User Groups – the two TLM Groups (Oxford/Southampton and the London South East TADG) have met both face to face and online this year. The TADG face-to-face meeting was held at Kings in London on 3 May, where presentations included NHSBT, MHRA updates, and Clinisys – LIMS. The virtual meeting took place on 22 October.

The Oxford/Southampton face-to-face meeting took place on 18 July, virtually on 14 May and 20 November. Many topics are common to both meetings - staffing, recruitment, and training. The impact of the London Cyber-attack featured at the TADG meeting, and it is hoped that lessons learned will be shared at a future education meeting.



Kerry Dowling, Chair of the UK Transfusion Laboratory Collaborative (UKTLC). Worked alongside SHOT to conduct a survey looking at the safety culture in transfusion laboratories across the UK. The survey

took place in 2023 and reported in 2024. The report highlighted the concerns regarding safety culture in laboratories and has informed improvement actions at a national level and to be adopted regionally. [UKTLC Surveys - Serious Hazards of Transfusion](#)

Transfusion Practitioner (TP) Group: The South-East Transfusion Practitioners' Group is one of seven such groups across England. Our hospitals stretch from Banbury in the north, to Guernsey in the South, and from Southampton in the West to Margate in the East. In total, this equates to 54 separate sites, covered by 44 TPs. This year, we welcomed three new TPs. The group is currently chaired by Jon Ricks and Sam Carrington from Southampton. Its work feeds into the National Transfusion Practitioners Network with the aim of building cooperation across England

and connecting with the other UK nations. Sharing experience and knowledge is a major reason for having the group. To this aim, the TP group met three times virtually in 2024 – 14 March, 12 June, 5 December, plus a joint meeting with the Transfusion Laboratory Managers (see below). As well as sharing experiences and knowledge from individual hospitals and benchmarking our progress through the QS138 Quality Insight Tool, the group support each other in dealing with any shared challenges. This year, agenda items included managing sustained shortages of both red cells and platelets, a presentation by a Hospital Liaison Committee Representative from the Jehovah’s Witnesses and discussing how to respond to the findings of the Infected Blood Inquiry.

Joint TP/TLM Meeting; 42 delegates attended the TP/TLM Joint meeting which took place on line on 23 October. Presentations topics included the results and the recommendations of the UK Transfusion Laboratory Collaborative – Culture Survey; Fostering a Positive Workplace Culture; the results of the 2024 Re-Audit of Bedside Transfusion Practice (22 South East Hospitals contributed to the audit); and an update from the Blood Stocks Management Scheme. Ideas and themes for future events were discussed and it was agreed this joint meeting should be an annual event to feature in the 2025 Workplan.

RTC Working Group – set up on 12 March, the nine members tackled the daunting task of researching, assessing and sharing their findings in three key areas of employment:

- ❖ **Recruitment** - Lauren Hamilton, Liz Tatam, Julie Cole
- ❖ **Training** -Tanya Hawkins, Sally Richardson, Carol Stenning
- ❖ **Retention** - Julie Staves, Ruth O’Donnell, Sue Mitchell

The final report is available [here](#)

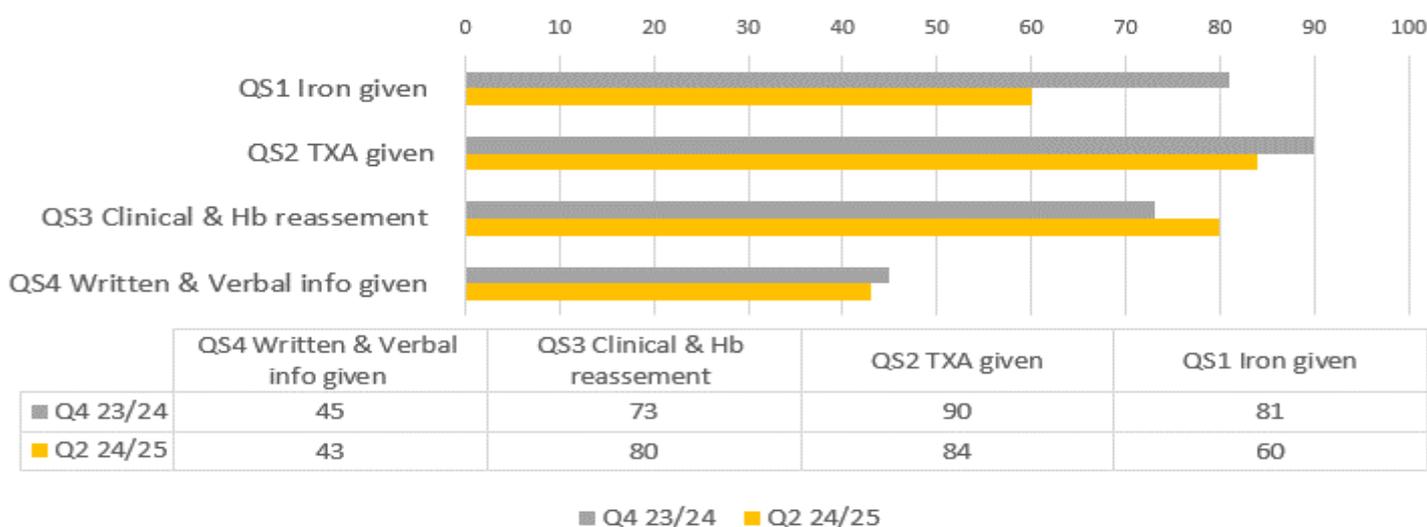
AUDITS

QS138 Quality Insights Audit Tool - South East biannual audit of NICE Quality Standard QS138

We had record number of hospitals taking part across the two 2024 audit cycles, 23 to be exact. This amounts to >2000 regional patient cases audited in 2024 and >4000 regional cases since the tool’s launch in 2023. 95% of trusts in the region are signed up to participate.

2024 regional results can be seen in the chart below:

2024 SE QS138 Quality Statement (QS) % compliance



Regional benchmarking reports are reviewed at our transfusion meetings to spark discussions, identify learning opportunities, pitfalls, and to consider solutions. These provide a better understanding of wider practice, supporting local hospital discussions and action when evaluating bespoke hospital reports. Variation in compliance is often seen when auditing different specialities, suggesting that a targeted quality improvement approach is sometimes

indicated to enhance practice. As a region, our strengths lie in the use of tranexamic acid in moderate blood loss surgery and reassessment. Identifying and treating patients with iron deficiency anaemia remains challenging, as does finding documented evidence that valid, informed consent has taken place for those transfused. Improvements in these priority areas align with the recommendations seen in the Infected Blood Inquiry report. Regional biannual auditing will continue in 2025.

The benefits of [QS138 Quality Insights](#) are now being realised across the UK with >150 hospitals registered, >10,000 cases entered and 3 regions now in an audit cycle using the tool. Included as a recommended resource of the 2023 National Comparative Audit of QS138, presented at the 2024 BBTS Annual Conference in Glasgow and the International Haemovigilance Network Symposium in Athens, word is getting out on how our audit tool can help hospitals improve their practice. We welcome this engagement as a positive influence on benchmarking value.

National Comparative Audits: The latest reports published are:

- 2024 National Comparative Audit of Bedside Transfusion Practice (Re-audit) ([Report](#));
- 2022 Audit of Blood Sample Collection & Labelling ([Report](#))
- [2022 Audit of Patient Blood Management in Elective Paediatric Surgery - Hospitals and Science - NHSBT](#)
- [2022 Comparative Audit of Acute Upper Gastrointestinal Bleeding \(AUGIB\) - Hospitals and Science - NHSBT](#)

Education and Training

Biomedical Scientist Study Day

Another very successful BMS Study Day took place on 7 June. The day included Basic Serology, Case Studies, an introduction to RCI investigations, and processes. “Excellent” was the overall feedback from the 17 delegates who attended the virtual event. They also added they felt more confident, improved their knowledge and widened their understanding. Thank you to the RCI and University Hospitals Southampton team.



RTC Education

Thank you to all the presenters who gave their time to contribute to our meetings this year – without exception there was praise for their insights and the expertise they shared.



An **RTC Education and Business Meeting**, held on 27 February, was the **first face to face meeting for the Region since 2019!** A group of 50 excited colleagues joined each other in Southampton with four key speakers, covering such varied topics as Virtual Training (including a hands-on session), Red Blood Cell Transfusion International guidelines, [PANDA](#) – Prevention of Anaemia, and an update from BSMS. The RTC Business meeting was held in the afternoon.

Presentations available via [JPAC Website](#).

The First National Blood Transfusion Committee Education Event was hosted by the South East. The NBTC

education topic - *Major Haemorrhage and Bleeding* – had been selected by the RTT from seven given topics. The event held on 16 July, via Microsoft Teams, was attended by 263 delegates. Presentations included Obstetric Haemorrhage – using wisely; Changing transfusion practice and the example of OBSUK trial; Organising an MH drill with an eternal hospital, and a case study. Of the 155 who provided feedback – 91 said they would change aspects of their work as a result of this event; and 100% would recommend similar events to colleagues. Presentations available via [JPAC website](#).

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Transfusion Bites – the face-to-face event returned to Southampton on 12 November. The event brought together 44 colleagues from across the region, who took the opportunity to network and listen to the popular 15-minute “bites” – four case studies, a fifth bite looking at fostering a positive workplace culture, plus a “quizzical” bite. The three key presentations included: A Paperless TACO Risk Assessment solution; the Use of simulation in transfusion training; and Liver disease and transfusion practice – what’s new? The RTC Working Group presented their final report. (as mentioned above). Feedback shows how welcomed these face-to-face meetings are.



JPAC website – continues to provide regular updates for regional education events, minutes and meetings. It also includes national education events.

- 13 May **South East RTT Meeting**
Via Microsoft Teams
In 2 months 1 week
- 05 Jun **South East TP Meeting**
Via Microsoft Teams
In 2 months 4 weeks
- 03 Jul **NBTC Education Event/ Hosted by South East RTC: Management of adverse events including: PSIRF, Human Factors and Safety**
Via Microsoft Teams
In 3 months 4 weeks

CONGRATULATIONS ...



A place at the table: Congratulations to Catherine Lorenzen, Chief Biomedical Scientist at Queen Elizabeth, Queen Mother Hospital, who is to Chair the IBMS Specialist Advisory Panel for BT and has been invited to Chair the BTLP NEQAS Steering Committee.



The QS138 Quality Insights team have been awarded the 2024 Bill Chaffe Unsung Hero Award 2024 by the British Blood Transfusion Society. *This award is given to any individual or team who have gone above and beyond in their support for the transfusion community and patients. It is for the staff who contribute directly or indirectly to the care and continuity of transfusion support.* QS138 Quality Insights builds on an earlier gap analysis tool developed with the South East Regional Transfusion Committee. The QS138 Quality Insights team are thrilled to accept this award and acknowledge that the development and success of the audit tool is a direct result of the collaboration and dedication of the South East Transfusion Practitioners. The audit tool was also a 2024 Health Service Journal Digital Award finalist in the Driving Change through Data and Analytics category.

Michael Terry, HTC Chair (Isle of Wight NHS Trust) wanted to share the following – the Trust is well into rollout of Blood Track®. I see benefits primarily in making our crossmatching safer, and because we have better traceability leading to better and more timely reporting. I give a shout out to the whole transfusion team as well as our end-users who are embracing needle-to-needle digitisation of our service.



Success at the 2024 SHOT Symposium Lauren Hamilton was awarded best poster for the Oxford University Hospital’s project:

Upgrading the OUH Electronic Blood Transfusion Bedside Device: Initiating change concisely with minimal disruption while maintaining maximal regulatory compliance in a trust-wide setting

Lauren Hamilton, Raluca Candrea, Marie Casey, Nikita Jacob, Deena Thomas, Jackie Goodsell, Shemsa Awadh, Soni Joy

Dates for your 2025 Diary:

April	Oxford/Southampton: Wednesday 9 April
May	RTT Meeting: Tuesday 13 May
June	TP Meeting: Thursday 5 June
July	Education Event: Thursday 3 July - Management of adverse events including: PSIRF, Human Factors and Safety (via Teams)

