

Here to RCI Assist you!

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Blood and Transplant

Background



The Transfusion 2024 strategy outlined key priorities for clinical and laboratory transfusion practice across the NHS with an urgent need to strengthen support for Hospital Transfusion Laboratories (HTL) to ensure safe provision of care for patients in need of transfusion¹



Workload audits have shown that Red Cell Immunohaematology (RCI) activity has increased by ~40% in the last ten years.



The United Kingdom Transfusion Laboratory Collaborative (UKTLC) reported that challenges in capacity and resource in HTL has been a key driver for this change²



There were 212 delayed transfusions reported in the 2023 Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) haemovigilance report³. Could some of these be attributed to unnecessary referral to RCI?



There was an action in the strategy to provide a pathway between hospitals and RCI that defines decision points for further serological investigation, reduces costs, improves hospital staff capability and enables faster patient results

What is RCI Assist?

RCI Assist is a referral support tool which guides users when processing samples in the HTL. RCI Assist contains decision points to either refer cases to RCI or resolve in-house and is supported with pop up information to improve HTL staff confidence.

Pathways include:

- Grouping
- Antibody Identification
- Antenatal
- Panreactives
- Elutions
- Transfusion



Where to access RCI Assist

RCI Assist is available as a link in Sp-ICE and OBOS

Simply log in with your usual credentials



[Help Files - OBOS User Guide and Presentation](#) | [Component Portfolio](#) | [RCI Assist](#)

Acknowledgements

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Additional thanks goes to everyone who took the time to provide invaluable feedback on RCI Assist during its development.

How it works



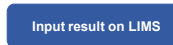
To move through the pathways, select the yes or no options next to the question boxes



To jump straight to a section, select the required tab

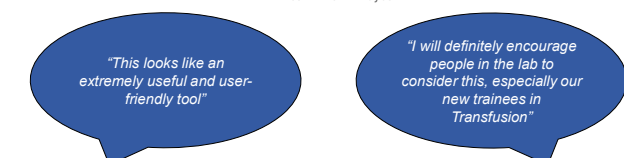
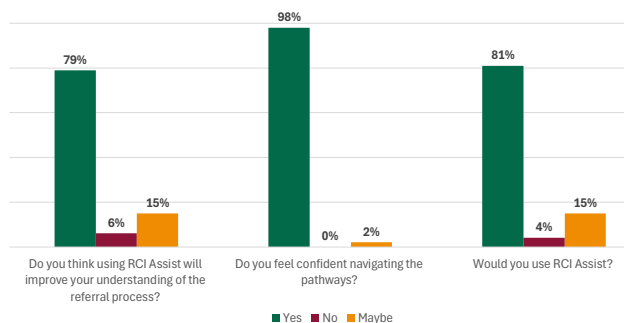
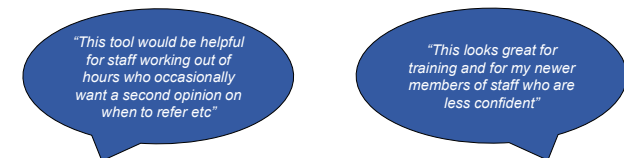


To get supporting information about a topic, click the information icon



Reach a decision point and either refer to RCI or result in-house

What do the users think?



Conclusions

RCI Assist was developed to provide a pathway to standardise referrals to RCI and increase HTL staff confidence. Feedback for RCI Assist was overwhelmingly positive, saying how user-friendly the tool is and how it's a valuable resource. Going forward, usage will be monitored, further feedback collected, and training sessions offered to continue to support HTL staff. Could using RCI Assist lead to a reduction of delayed transfusions reported to SHOT and improve patient care?

References

1. National Blood Transfusion Committee and NHS Blood and Transplant (no date) A five-year plan for clinical and laboratory transfusion, <https://nationalbloodtransfusion.co.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2023-03/Transfusion%202024%20Brochure%20FINAL%20152811.12.2023%29.pdf>
2. Bolton-Maggs, P., Mistry, H., Rook, R., 2019. "Staffing in hospital transfusion laboratories: UKTLC surveys show cause for concern," *Transfusion Medicine* (Oxford, England), 29(2), pp. 95-102. doi: 10.1111/tme.12593.
3. SHOT Steering Group (2024) Annual SHOT Report 2023 [online] Available at: <https://www.shotuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Annual-SHOT-Report-2023-V1.2.pdf>

For further information on RCI Assist, please visit the [NBTUK website](https://nbtuk.org)

