

Blood requirements for solid organ transplant donors who will undergo Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) prior to transplantation - FAQs for hospitals

National Transfusion Lab Managers' Group / NBTC

July 2026

Following communication from NHSBT's Transplant team in May 2026 about this topic, we hope the following FAQs will be useful supporting information:

1. I don't routinely have blood boxes – can I use an NHSBT blood box?

Under the terms of the NHSBT SLA it is permitted for a hospital to use an NHSBT box for these purposes. Additional information is available on the Hospital and Science website

[Small journey transport box - Hospitals and Science - NHSBT](#)

2. If I may need to provide up to 12 units of red cells, I will need to increase my ideal stock level to ensure I can provide this for all groups. Is this acceptable?

It should not be necessary to increase your ideal stock level for this purpose. Current experience shows that most NRP procedures require between 4-6 units. Hospitals will rarely encounter a donor who requires a larger volume of red cells. If this is required the donation nurses will give as much notice to the hospital laboratory as possible, allowing time for additional requirements to be ordered from NHSBT.

3. What is the timescale blood will be required in?

This will vary but in most cases the donor can remain on life support to allow time for the hospital laboratory to issue any required red cells – at present there is usually a minimum of 5 hours' notice that blood is needed, but this is planned to increase soon.

4. The patient has antibodies – should I provide serologically crossmatched antigen-negative units for this?

The units to be used during NRP donation surgery should be crossmatch compatible with a valid sample from the patient, as normal.

5. How will I be advised this blood is required?

Ordering blood should follow your hospital's standard practice; the specialist nurses will communicate with the lab in a way appropriate for the time of the day. Blood should only be issued against a valid transfusion sample as with any other patient.

6. My theatre suite doesn't have a blood fridge – where should I store the blood?

There is no requirement to purchase and implement a blood fridge in your theatre suite if this is not currently in situ. The units required to be available but not in theatre for these procedures should be stored in the blood fridge which is usually used for blood required during surgery.