


North East & Yorkshire RTC Meeting Minutes



13:00 – 16:00 Monday 06 June 2023



















Attendees		
Abe Aweda	AA	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, North Lincs & Goole
Aimi Baird	AB	Transfusion Practitioner, Newcastle
Helen Barber	HB	Transfusion Practitioner, Leeds
Anna Bartholomew	ABa	Transfusion Practitioner, Northumbria
Amanda Baxter	ABax	Transfusion Practitioner, Sheffield Children's
Helen Baxter	HB	Operational Lead Scientist – Blood Transfusion, North Tees and South Tees
Gillian Bell	GB	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Carol Blears	CB	Transfusion Practitioner, Mid Yorkshire
David Bruce	DB	Head of RCI Newcastle, NHSBT
Steven Burns	SB	QA Manager, NHSBT Barnsley
Victoria Calvert	VC	Specialist Registrar, NHSBT
Andrew Charlton	AC	Consultant Haematologist, Newcastle and NHSBT
Khaled El-Ghariani	KEG	Consultant Haematologist, Chair of HTC, Sheffield Teaching
Stephanie Ferguson	SF	Transfusion Practitioner, Leeds
Jenny Fullthorpe	JF	Head Biomedical Scientist, York & Scarborough
Jo Gilbert	JG	Senior BMS, Co Durham & Darlington
Andrea Harmer	AH	National Head of H&I, NHSBT
Alison Hirst	AH	Transfusion Practitioner, Airedale
George Holmes	GH	Clinical lead for Transfusion, Northumbria
Catrina Ivel	CI	Transfusion Practitioner, York and Scarborough
Briony Johnston	BJ	Specialist BMS, Airedale
Marina Karakantza	MK	Consultant Haematologist, NHSBT
Nicola Keepin	NK	Haematology Departmental Manager, South of Tyne Clinical Pathology Services
Sam Kershaw	SK	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Calderdale and Huddersfield
Michelle Lake	ML	Transfusion Practitioner, Calderdale & Huddersfield
Joanne Lawson	JL	Blood Sciences Departmental Manager, Co Durham & Darlington
Charlotte Longhorn	CL	Patient Blood Management Practitioner, NHSBT
Kate Marklew	KM	Transfusion Practitioner, Leeds
Carole McBride	CMc	Transfusion Practitioner, Mid Yorkshire
Chantal Morrell	CM	Quality Coordinator, Co Durham & Darlington
Janet Nicholson	JN	Transfusion Practitioner, North Cumbria
Anne Olaleye	AO	Potential Patient Representative
Mandy O'Shea	MO	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Mid York's
Rachel Perkins	RP	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Rotherham
Ric Procter	RP	Deputy chair , A&E Consultant and Chair of HTC, South Tees
Jordan Reed	JRe	Transfusion Practitioner, York and Scarborough
Janice Robertson	JR	Minutes , RTC Administrator, NHSBT
Karen Simblet	KS	QA Manager, NHSBT Newcastle
Faye Smith	FS	Transfusion Practitioner, Harrogate
Youssef Sorour	YS	Chair , Consultant Haematologist and chair of HTC, Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Mark Taplin	MT	Blood Transfusion Manager, Barnsley

Brian Taylor	BT	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Sheffield Teaching
Jemma Timms	JT	Consultant Anaesthetist and chair of HTC, Newcastle
Herbert Tsuru	HT	Senior BMS for transfusion, Leeds
Karen Ward	KW	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Northumbria
Abbie White	AW	Transfusion Practitioner, North Lincs & Goole

Apologies		
Bushra Amin	BA	Transfusion Practitioner, Calderdale and Huddersfield
Claire Broere	CB	Transfusion Practitioner, South Tees
Lee Cairns	LC	Transfusion Practitioner, Calderdale and Huddersfield
Carolyn Carveth Marshal	CCM	Transfusion Practitioner, South Tees
Robin Coupe	RC	Customer Service Manager, NHSBT
Rachael Denham	RD	Scientific Consultant, NHSBT
Allistair Dodds	AD	Consultant Anaesthetist, Chair of HTC, South Tyneside and Sunderland
Emma Harrison	EH	Transfusion Practitioner, North Lincs and Goole
Paul Jennings	PJ	Consultant in Emergency Medicine, Chair of HTC, Airedale
Jamie Maddox	JD	Consultant Haematologist, South Tees
Judith Morgan	JM	Consultant in Paediatric Anaesthesia, Chair of HTC, Sheffield Children's
Alison Muir	AM	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Newcastle
Jill Parkinson	JP	Transfusion Practitioner, Bradford
Emma Richards	ER	Transfusion Practitioner, Doncaster & Bassetlaw
Delia Smith	DS	Customer Service Manager, NHSBT
Gayle Sugden	GS	Blood Stocks Management Lead, Leeds
John Sutton	JS	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, North Cumbria
Angeline Thiongo	AT	Transfusion Practitioner, Sheffield Teaching
Megan Wrightson	MW	Transfusion Practitioner, South Tees

1.	Welcome
	YS welcomed the group.
2.	Education Section
2.1	Update on NHSBT Genomics Programme Presented by Andrea Harmer
2.2	Review of National Guidelines / Research Papers Presented by Marina Karakantza  Guidelines.pdf
3.	Apologies noted. Minutes of previous meeting, 06.03.2023 confirmed Action: Post confirmed minutes onto JPAC website.
3.1	Matters arising
Closed	Confirmed minutes of November meeting posted onto JPAC website

Closed	SOP for managing scanning of wristbands from other Trusts after patients have been transferred contributing to sample rejection. Close action as Julie Staves currently absent from work.	
Closed	In preparation for using the new reduced dose contingency platelet component, NHSBT requested that hospitals update the LIMs systems with the new product barcodes.	
4	Update from NBTC	
	<p>NBTC meeting 27 March 2023, included:</p> <p>RTC chairs meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of RTC's work over the previous six months. • Ongoing issues in relation to lack of clinical engagement and recruitment and retention issues, especially in the laboratories. • Evidence of excellent education programme, both nationally and at the local RTC's. There is a proposal for an ongoing national rolling program of education • Increased resilience noted as a result of the Amber alerts. Some excellent work is being carried out to prepare for the future and avoid further alerts. • Alignment of the regions is now officially complete. • Presentation from the Blood and Transplant Research Unit (BTRU) team with updates around the work on tranexamic acid and perioperative, enhanced perioperative mobilization. • YouTube video of the new NBTC website and the microsite. The group was encouraged to visit / review the site. • Presentation on the new NICE QS138 audit tool presented, <p>NBTC meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Transfusion 2024 from Louise Sherliker. A summary will be included in the NBTC meeting minutes. An update session is scheduled for 19 June 2023. Programme available at https://nationalbloodtransfusion.co.uk/sites/default/files/events/2023-05/T2024%20Virtual%20Event%20Flyer%20Final.pdf • Update on the NBTC stakeholders event. • Feedback on the Amber Alert from Tracey Tomlinson The report will be attached to the NBTC meeting minutes. Stakeholder event planned for internal / external participants, to share and build on learning. Plans in place to review the national red cell shortage plan. • Feedback from the various NBTC working groups. Considering reconfiguration of the working groups with the aim of increased sharing, interconnectivity and overall effectiveness. • RTC chairs and NBTC minutes https://www.transfusionguidelines.org/uk-transfusion-committees/national-blood-transfusion-committee/business 	
5.	Review of NBTC / RTC's structure	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update 	
6.	Reports from Hospital Transfusion Teams	
	<p>Airedale NHS Trust</p> <p> Airedale.pdf</p>	<p>Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>No report received</p>
		<p>Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p> Bradford.pdf</p>

<p>Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p> Calderdale & Huddersfield.pdf</p>	<p>County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p> CDDFT.pdf</p>	<p>Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p> Doncaster and Bassetlaw.pdf</p>
<p>Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p> Harrogate.pdf</p>	<p>Hull & East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust</p> <p> Hull and East Yorkshire.pdf</p>	<p>Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust</p> <p> Leeds.pdf</p>
<p>Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust</p> <p> Mid Yorkshire.pdf</p>	<p>Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p> Newcastle.pdf</p>	<p>North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust</p> <p> North Cumbria .pdf</p>
<p>Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p> North Lincolnshire & Goole.pdf</p>	<p>North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p> North Tees.pdf</p>	<p>Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p> Northumbria.pdf</p>
<p>Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p> Sheffield Childrens.pdf</p>	<p>Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p> Sheffield Teaching.pdf</p>	<p>South of Tyne (Inc Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trusts)</p> <p> South of Tyne.pdf</p>
<p>South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p> South Tees.pdf</p>	<p>The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p> Rotherham.pdf</p>	<p>York & Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p> York and Scarborough.pdf</p>

Key points / common themes from reports:

Common themes:

- Issues with staffing, both laboratory and clinical.
Loss of experienced staff impacting on the number of incidence and training.
Reliance on agency and bank staff
- I.T. – A range of business case implementation including LIMS and Blood Track.
Trust improvements causing increased pressures with less staff available to implement changes.
- Increase in Wrong Blood in Tube incidents attributed to the increased pressures in the clinical areas.



Key points:



- North Lincolnshire and Goole.

Recent NCA QS138 Re-audit, local TACO checklist audit completed - still compiling data. Increased use of check lists but not all completed correctly:

- Patients scoring yes on use of furosemide not receiving it.
- Patients with low body weight – looking to update pathway to include weight on the prescription and highlight point for clinician to look at body weight and consider red cell volume adjustment.
- Northumbria
Local documentation audit. Transfusion and MTP charts to be updated. The record of body weight to be moved closer to the TACO checklist in the hope that it will improve practice.
Completion rates for e-learning packages improved. Suspect that this is due to renewal of software packages focusing staff.
- Sheffield Teaching
Audit of Red Cell use in medical specialities ongoing, will report at a future meeting.
- Harrogate
2022- Audit of blood sample collection and labelling – awaiting feedback
Increased use of agency staff within the trust leading to transfusion and documentation issues / transfusion running >4 hrs. Included on pathology risk register and training to be reviewed.
- Bradford
Purchased Haemonetics Blood Track TX via the Scan4Safety team, including batched products module which will improve HAS/Anti-D traceability.
- North Tees
Blood usage in Lower limb elective surgery. Reduced emergency stock at Hartlepool, reduced the number of units cross-matched for revisions and since 2018 reduced the transfusion rate from 10% to 0.92% in 2022.
- York & Scarborough
Request for options of practice for labelling of neonatal samples
Airedale advised they have a template which mirrors the label on a normal transfusion bottle to ensure demographics completed which can be handwritten then attached. This has resulted in a reduced the amount of rejected samples.
Newcastle mirror Airedales practice.
This will most likely not be permissible with BCSH guidelines and ISO standards so a risk assessment would be required.
Sheffield use larger tubes to enable labelling to be legible.
- Rotherham
Staffing pressures, NHSI network uncertainty. It will be several years before they look at staff at bench level.
- Hull
Presentation on the use of ED MH paperwork, TPs made adjustments to the paperwork to audit trust wide. TP will update at the next meeting.
- For sites that have paper based authorisation charts.
North Linc & Goole include furosemide as a prescription on the chart and it is prescribed alongside the blood components.
Airedale has furosemide on the paper chart.
York and Scarborough have the ability to add additional medications onto the paper based transfusion protocol.
Northumbria indicate on the paper transfusion chart that furosemide is required and then it is prescribed on e-meds.
- Training of agency and locum staff, both nursing and medical
York and Scarborough request ward sister advise TPs when block booking agency staff to allow training to be organised.
Leeds record agency staff training on ESR system.

7. Budget

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NE&Y RTC have funded the delegate fee for three delegates to attend The SHOT symposium on 04 July 2023. The delegates will give an update from the symposium at the November RTC meeting. • Offer funding of the delegate fee for delegates to attend The BBTS Annual Conference 2023 - Harrogate Convention Centre. Expressions of interest requested by end of June 2023. • Funding is available for educational events (not post graduate).
8.	Haemostasis and Thrombosis Matters
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update
9.	NHSBT Updates
9.1	Customer Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update
9.2	Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspections from UCAS in our RCI and H&I departments. The inspections went well with no instances of note. • Awaiting update from MHRA re visit to the Newcastle site. • NHSBT Tooting site MHRA inspection (BEA/WDL Licence) will take place 05 to 07 June 2023. • MHRA have confirmed that they will inspect the Advanced Therapy Unit (ATU) at Barnsley commencing on Tuesday 13 June 2023. They anticipate the inspection will be for 3 days but this will be finalised nearer the time.
9.3	Patient Blood Management  PBM Update .pdf
9.4	RCI  RCI update.pdf
10.	Education and Training
10.1	Update on 2023 events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Haemorrhage: Medical, Obstetric and Trauma 1pm to 4pm Wednesday, 4th October 2023
10.2	Non-Medical Authorisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following review the group agreed to ratification of the following documents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework for blood component transfusion • A Template for a portfolio of evidence and competency to support non-medical staff clinical decision making and providing written instruction for blood component transfusion. • Non-Medical Authorisation of Blood Components Workbook • Questions for delegates • 2023 events - Wednesday 21 June, Wednesday 20 September, Thursday 07 December
10.3	National TP events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good attendance and feedback for the TP2023 National Transfusion Practitioner Symposium – 17 & 18 May 2023 Links to presentation available via the National TP network page and PBM YouTube channel • Next event 2025 (2 year rotation).

10.4	<p>Scientific and Technical Training</p>  <p>SciClinTraining-Update May 2023.pdf</p>
<p>Future Education Events</p> <p>Canvassing for topics, please forward any suggestions to JR. Details of virtual education programme available via https://www.transfusionguidelines.org/uk-transfusion-committees/regional-transfusion-committees/virtual-education-sessions</p>	
<p>11. Audits / Standards / Studies</p>	
11.1	<p>National Comparative Audits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute upper gastrointestinal bleeding (AUGIB) 2022 Data entry/analysis ongoing • Patient blood management in paediatric surgery 2022 Data collection period over • Blood sample collection and labelling 2022 Report https://nhsbtdbe.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/29807/2022-audit-of-blood-sample-collection-report.pdf • NCA QS138 Re-Audit 2023 Data collection period over • Bedside Transfusion Audit 2023 Due to start November 2023
11.2	<p>Regional Surveys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End to End Transfusion IT group: 2023 IT Profiling Survey Results.  <p>North-East and Yorkshire RTC End to</p>
<p>12. Reports from RTC groups</p>	
12.1	<p>Transfusion Practitioners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful hybrid meeting held across Barnsley and Newcastle sites, retaining the option for delegates and speakers to join remotely if required on 30 March 2023. The meeting included discussions on the length of time TPs are needing to spend on SHOT recommendations, gap analysis and the concern that it may potentially impact on the level of reporting. A representative from SHOT has agreed to attend the September meeting to answer questions from the group. • Following review and rebadging as a North East and Yorkshire document, the group agreed to ratification of the Competency Assessment & Assessor Guidance Notes - Obtaining (and Labelling) Venous Blood Samples. • Next meeting 12 June 2023, also hybrid, to include presentations on Major Haemorrhage Pathways in ED and QS138 Quality Insights • Developing a regional template for incident investigations. • Face to face meeting scheduled for 26 September 2023.
12.2	<p>Centre Users Groups</p> <p>Barnsley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group has not met since the last RTC meeting. • Next meeting 05 July 2023. <p>Newcastle - Face to face meeting held 17 May 2023.</p>

	<p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations on ‘Closed Loop Blood Project: The NuTH experience’ and ‘Provision of HLA selected platelets.’ • Updates from NHSBT departments. • Discussion on staffing challenges and challenges that UKAS continue to pose with regard to different interpretations and requirements from each organization.
12.3	<p>NBTC Laboratory Managers Group</p> <p>Last meeting 22 March 2023 (meeting again tomorrow).</p> <p>Key points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing issues. A report of a hospital in the South Central region losing UKAS accreditation with regard to problems with staffing levels. Reports from managers about non HCPC staff being used for crossmatching. Chris Robbie from MHRA, fed back that there are an increasing number of SABRE reports being submitted where staffing issues and workload are being cited as the root cause of the issues. • Stock holding challenges for NHSBT, particularly around platelets and A negative platelets
12.4	<p>Trauma Network update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trauma Haematology group that runs from London is expanding to include South Central, Midlands, and some other sites. It is predominantly aimed at MTCs looking at sharing practice and has become a relatively useful group. • Study of Whole Blood in Frontline Trauma (SWIFT) trial, looking at giving whole blood is now running. Ten air ambulances across the country delivering pre-hospital whole blood for receiving sites, will run over the next couple of years. • Waste levels Relatively static across most of the MTCs. Out of Temperature Control - Outside laboratory accounts for a large proportion of wastage, in the region of £470,000. A downturn in trauma across April / May has resulted in increased TIMEX wastage. • Discussion on whether sites have agreements in place to transfer product across trusts. • MTC's to look ways to share out low dated stock. • Report from Cryostat-2 trial (multi-centre, randomised, controlled trial evaluating the effects of early high-dose cryoprecipitate in adult patients with major trauma) due in the next few weeks. The report will initiate some discussions re: Major Haemorrhage Policies and reducing waste.
12.5	<p>End to end transfusion IT group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last meeting 26 April 2023 included a presentation from SCRIPT • Next meeting 28 June 2023.
13.	<p>A.O.B.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Lincolnshire & Goode recently had a MHRA visit. Nonconformances - one major and five others including: Root Cause Analysis and how they trend them. AA asked if any other sites have had any similar nonconformance. SB advised that NHSBT have implemented an updated policy on the back of MHRA findings. (See below)



MPD387 root cause
2023.docx

How do we control / restrict access to blood fridge

AW asked how other Trusts remove access for staff whose competencies have expired.

BT advised that Sheffield have control over swipe card access (delegated by Estates & Facilities) and other Trusts may agree to this knowing that another trust has followed that process.

- ABax asked if anyone had any information on recording transgender patients Group referred to a presentation at BMSEGD 29: [Gender, Transfusion and the Guideline Gap](#)

No official guidance available, but a suggestion from the group to record 'gender at birth.'

Feedback to National Lab Managers Group is that there is going to be a group to discuss this, but there is no date for when the guidance will be available.

14. Date of next meeting

- To be confirmed

RTC – Action list

Item No	Action	By Whom
3	Post confirmed minutes of 06.03.2023 meeting onto JPAC website.	JR