

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE SOUTH WEST REGIONAL TRANSFUSION COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday 22 May 2024, 10.30 – 15.30**  
**Oake Manor, Taunton**

**Attendance:**

<b>NHS HOSPITALS/ORGANISATIONS</b>	
Dorset County Hospital NHSFT	David Quick (DQ), Lucy Fallon (LF)
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHSFT	Sophie Scutt (SS)
Great Western Hospitals NHSFT	Fran Morrison (FM)
North Bristol NHS Trust	Jules Blackham (JB), Emma Chambers (ECh), Elmarie Cairns (EC), Karen Mead (KM), Tim Wreford-Bush (TWB), Michelle Melly (MM)
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	Olly Pietroni (OP), Pedro Valle Vallines (PVV)
Royal Devon University Healthcare NHSFT	Paul Kerr (PK), Sarah Wheeldon (SW)
Royal United Hospitals Bath NHSFT	No representation
Salisbury NHSFT	Anushka Natarajan (AN)
Somerset NHSFT	Michelle Davey (MD), Charlotte Neville-Rutherford (CNR), Martin Best (MB), Jackie Ruell (JR)
Torbay and South Devon NHSFT	Patrick Roberts (PR)
University Hospitals Bristol & Weston NHS FT	Stephen White (SW), Egle Gallo (EG), David Brunt (DB), Soo Cooke (SC), Amy Cooper (AC), Kay Reen Ting (KT)
University Hospitals Dorset NHS FT – Bournemouth	No representation
University Hospitals Dorset NHS FT - Poole	Vikki Chandler-Vizard (VCV), Ali McCormick (AM)
University Hospitals Plymouth NHS FT	Stuart Cleland, Chair (SC), Sam Gray (SG) Paul Moor (PM) Tom Scorer (TS)
<b>PRIVATE HOSPITALS</b>	
Nuffield South West	Rebecca Tizzard (RT), Kate Huish (KH)
<b>Patient Representatives</b>	No representation
<b>NHSBT</b>	
PBMP	Sam Timmins (ST)
RTC Administrator	Jackie McMahon (JM)
Customer Services Manager	Carol Stenning (CS)

**\*Copies of presentations will be available with the minutes where we have permission to share**

- 1. Welcome and Apologies:**  
All welcomed. Apologies noted.
- 2. Previous Meeting Minutes**
  - Discussions with Nuffield re ordering practices are ongoing.
- 3. NBTC/RTC Chairs Meeting Update (SC)\***  
SC gave an overview of the main points:
  - Keen for more patient involvement in RTCs.
  - Ask from the NBTC Chair for each RTC to have a Deputy Chair for continuity and succession planning.
  - Tx 2024 Update - additional two years' funding from NHSBT to finalise ongoing projects.

- Ongoing efforts to progress discussions between NBTC/NHSBT/Pathology and LIMS suppliers to try and ensure that future LIMS systems specifications take better account of transfusion requirements.
- Hospital Blood Data Integration Project – variations in stockholding and workforce constraints are resulting in incomplete data. To try and get a better overall overview of stock levels at local, regional and national level, 15 hospitals are being recruited to take part in a 24 month pilot, working specifically with three pathology networks.
- Updated indication codes for transfusion in adults published by NBTC – working on equivalent for children.
- RTC Social Media – considering best approach going forward as current activity varies between regions. Options vary between just using the NBTC website or having one national RTC account. This will be discussed at the next RTT meeting so if you have any views that you would like taken into account, please let SC know.
- NBTC Education Programme - Hazards of Transfusion is the chosen topic for the SW RTC. This was due to be hosted in June but due to difficulties finalising speakers has been postponed, date tbc.
- Blood and Transfusion Research Units (BTRU) – formation of national database from patient records. Currently looking at identifying KPIs.
- Further ask to advertise the NHSBT transfusion training programme for anaesthetists – 9 modules.
- TACO – SHOT released new CAS alert and produced a number of actions to be completed by 4 October 2024 -
  - Review and Update Policies, Procedures and Processes
  - Review, Update, Implement Training
  - Undertake Regular Audit
- Results of 2023 SHOT and UKTLC Transfusion Laboratory Culture Survey revealed that just under half of transfusion laboratory staff had faced hostility in the workplace and almost half had considered moving roles or organisation because of concerns around safety culture and also fed into some of the findings of the IBI.
- Transfusion Transformation Symposium and strategy meeting 10 June – wide NHS participation, looking to set transfusion strategy for the next five years, following on from Transfusion 2024. Launch date of April 2025.

#### Summary of asks from NBTC Meeting:

Register for electronic requesting/reporting of free fetal RhD  
 Consider joining Hospital Blood Data Integration Project  
 Use newly updated Indication codes for transfusion  
 Promote Transfusion training for anesthetists online course  
 Register for National Haemoglobinopathy Registry  
 Register for NICE QS138 tool

#### 4. HTC Chair's Report Highlights (SC)\*

Seventh meeting with these reports. Provides an overview of regional activity and a useful tool for reporting any local issues.

##### Usage & Wastage Highlights:

SC had a recent meeting with Matt Bend, BSMS, to discuss the production of a comprehensive regional blood stocks management report to facilitate the requirement of the RTCs to review appropriate use and wastage. This would replace a lot of the reports currently produced by the RTC Administrator and would enable comparison with other regions.. What KPIs/data would be most useful?

RDUH are moving to O- platelets, rather than A- and ability to transfer red cells and platelets across sites has supported reduction in stock holding.

Taunton currently auditing platelet wastage as appears higher than similar users.

NBT re-assigned from Very High to High BSMS user category, largely due to strong PBM work and reduction in wastage. Well done NBT

Torbay putting measures in place to identify problems reducing O- proportion. (ST mentioned that the TP group are formulating a regional MH survey which will include O+ compliance).

QS138 section focussed on Consent.

The recent NCA showed no major improvements over the previous audit.

All trusts reported providing written information.

New approach at Dorset has seen an increase in compliance.

Glos using QS138 audit tool, which has shown improvement over four quarters.

Two trusts using electronic tracking to record consent.

*The NHSBT Customer Service and PBM Updates and the Working Group Updates were replaced by an overview and recommendations from the IBI. The Updates are circulated with the minutes and include results of the regional hospital plasma and platelet usage survey.*

## 5. **Universal Components Project Update Presentation (LC)**

LC gave a project overview and update on progress to date:

Hoping to get patient input into the project.

The shelf life would still be 7 days.

The overall aim is to improve robustness and resiliance of supply.

Will work with NHSBT re the feasibility of components being 100% universal but other views will be taken into account.

LC will forward a link to the manuscript when it is available.

## 6. **Roundtable Learning**

PK gave an overview and demonstration of EPIC and transfusion.

One key point is to make sure transfusion is on the agenda from the very beginning of setting a system up and having a good relationship with the system developers.

It is useful for trusts with the same systems to discuss best practice/shared learning points and it was agreed to get a sense from each trust which direction they are going in, to potentially create groups of trusts that can work together.

OP mentioned that the transfusion survey is being further refined and invited input from PK around benchmarking with what trusts are doing around EPR and automated ordering systems..

## 7. **AOB**

SS raised the issue of gender reassignment and how it works with EPR systems. SC confirmed that this has been raised nationally with BSH and has gone to the Royal College of Physicians who are currently trying to come up with some appropriate wording.

LF had a query from their SCBU around IV needle sizes for FFP. ST didn't think there were any national guidelines and agreed to check what GOSH do. SC also volunteered to check with his trust. LF to forward query to SC and ST.

FM commented on the number and time pressures of audits and it was agreed that the request to start using the QS138 audit tool would be pushed back to September 2024. SC also commented that this was recognised by NBTC and is happy to feed back.

Following AM's request for more up to date information on TP WTEs, KM confirmed that this had been part of a national survey and the results are expected at the end of June.

SC announced that he is planning to step down from the role of RTC Chair in April 2025 and asked if anyone would be interested in the role of deputy chair, with a view to taking over the role of Chair next April so we can avoid a time with no chair in position. The role now has one PA allocated and although this pushes it towards being a doctor, there is no reason it can't be taken on buy a non-doctor. Any expressions of interest should go directly to SC.

**8. SW RTC Education**

The education section focussed on coagulation in trauma and the following presentations were given:

- Trauma Haemorrhage from Trials to Clinical Practice, Dr Nicola Curry
- Trauma Management from a NHS & Military Perspective

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

20 November 2024, Oake Manor, Taunton

**South West Regional Transfusion Committee Meeting – 22.05.24 – Action Log**

Actions from meeting minutes		Actioner(s)	Status	Notes
2	Progress discussion with Nuffield re ordering practices	SC/RT		Ongoing
3	NBTC 'asks': Register for electronic requesting/reporting of free fetal RhD Consider joining Hospital Blood Data Integration Project Use newly updated Indication codes for transfusion Promote Transfusion training for anaesthetists online course Register for National Haemoglobinopathy Registry Register for NICE QS138 tool	All		
6	Transfusion IT Systems: It is useful for trusts with the same systems to share best practice/learning points and it was agreed to get a sense from each trust which direction they are going in, to potentially create groups of trusts that can work together.	All		
7	LF was asked to send her SCBU query around IV needle sizes for FFP to ST and SC for ST to check with GOSH and SC to check within his trust.	LF/SC/ST		
7	SC to feedback to NBTC comment on the number and time pressures of audits.	SC		
7	Send expressions of interest for the Deputy RTC Chair role to SC.	All		

## GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

BSH	British Society for Haematology
BSMS	Blood Stocks Management Scheme
CAS	Central Alerting System
EPR	Electronic Patient Record
FFP	Fresh Frozen Plasma
GOSH	Great Ormond Street Hospital
HTC	Hospital Transfusion Committee
ICI	Infected Blood Inquiry
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LIMS	Laboratory Information Management System
NBT	North Bristol Trust
NBTC	National Blood Transfusion Committee
NCA	National Comparative Audit
NHSBT	NHS Blood & Transplant
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
PA	Programmed Activities
PBM	Patient Blood Management
PBMP	Patient Blood Management Practitioner
QS	Quality Standard
RDUH	Royal Devon University Hospitals
RhD	Rhesus D
RTC	Regional Transfusion Committee
RTT	Regional Transfusion Team
SCBU	Special Care Baby Unit
SHOT	Serious Hazards of Transfusion
TACO	Transfusion Associated Circulatory Overload
TP	Transfusion Practitioner
TX	Transfusion
UKTLC	United Kingdom Transfusion Laboratory Collaborative
WTE	Whole Time Equivalent