

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
NORTH WEST REGIONAL TRANSFUSION COMMITTEE**

Monday 22nd April 2024 via MS Teams

Present (68)

Craig Carroll – Chair (CC)	Salford Royal Hospital
Daisy Alty	Royal Preston Hospital
Sue Andrews	Royal Oldham Hospital
Pete Baker	LUHFT
Jo Bark	NHSBT
Lydia Baxter	Salford Royal Hospital
Jessica Bradbury	LUHFT
Lee Carter	ELHT
Steven Carter	Arrowe Park Hospital
Lucy Cooper	MFT
Luke Dowey	Clatterbridge Cancer Centre
Asha Elmi	Clatterbridge Cancer Centre
Karen Farrar	Royal Bolton Hospital
Janet Fu	Alder Hey Children’s Hospital
Neil Fuller	Blackpool Victoria Hospital
Christine Gallagher	BSMS
Liezl Gaum	NHSBT
Jan Gorry	LUHT
Amanda Gould (AG)	Macclesfield District General Hospital
Sharran Grey	Blackpool Victoria Hospital
Rukhsana Hashmat	NHSBT
Sarah Hibbert	MFT
Jane Iatrou	STHK
Sharon Jackson	The Christie Hospital
Mariya Joseph	MFT
Karen Knowles	LUHFT
Rebekka Konig	LUHFT – HTC Chair
Rachel Langan	Warrington Hospital
Louise McCreery	Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Jo McCullagh	NHSBT
Laura McGonagle	Ramsey Healthcare
Bernadette Mir	MFT
Danielle Monteil	Clatterbridge Cancer Centre
Sophie Moores	MFT
Johannes Muller	NHSBT
Kaiser Mushtaq	Royal Oldham Hospital
Mike Nicholls	Spire Healthcare
Dan Palmer	NHSBT
Alice Panayi-Brown	Leighton Hospital
Hollie Papirnyk	LUHFT
Carmel Parker	MFT
Ryan Peysner	Clatterbridge Cancer Centre
Louise Polyzois	MFT

Clare Quarterman
 Andy Quirk
 Katherine Roberts
 Jennie Rogers
 Jessica Sandham
 Claire Scrafton
 Andrew Sefton
 Lauren Sekloawu
 Tracey Shackleton
 Misty Shakespeare
 Dave Simcox
 Andrew Simpson
 Vikram Singh
 Rebecca Spiers
 Emma Stansfield
 Kelly Stephenson
 David Taylor
 Carla Thomas
 Rhian Thomas
 Val Wallace
 Carolyn Warren
 Jim Wesson
 Jane Whittaker
 Joanne Wright
 Rebecca Wright

LHCH – HTC Chair
 Noble’s Hospital – Isle of Man
 Royal Preston Hospital
 MFT
 Alder Hey Children’s Hospital
 STHK
 Liverpool Women’s Hospital
 MFT
 Alder Hey Children’s Hospital
 The Christie Hospital
 LUHFT
 Alder Hey Children’s Hospital
 Clatterbridge Cancer Centre
 Warrington Hospital
 The Christie Hospital
 STHK
 STHK
 Alder Hey Children’s Hospital – HTC Chair
 Warrington Hospital
 LHCH
 Spire Healthcare
 NCA
 NCA
 Royal Bolton Hospital
 LUHFT – Aintree Hospital

Minutes

Jane Murphy (JM)

NHSBT

Apologies

Helen Burdett
 Imtiaz Ali
 Janet Nicholson
 Jo Oldfield
 Laura Welsh

STHK
 Blackpool Victoria Hospital

 Noble’s Hospital, Isle of Man
 Tameside General Hospital

Actions

Item no.	Original Meeting/Date	Action	Owner	Status
2	RTC 22/04/24	Minutes from RTC meeting on 10 th November 2023 to be posted on website	JM	Completed
3	RTC 22/04/24	JM to email members requesting expressions of interest in joining a regional Anaemia or Cell Salvage Working Group	JM	Completed
7	RTC 22/04/24	Presentation by Christine Gallagher on “Regional Blood Component Wastage” to be shared	JM	Completed

Minutes

1. **Welcome & Apologies**

Craig Carroll welcomed members to the meeting and thanked everyone for joining.

Jayne Peters is currently off due to ill health. CC on behalf of the RTC wished JP well for a rapid recovery.

The persons listed above sent their apologies prior to the meeting date.

2. **Minutes of RTC Meeting 10th November 2023**

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed.

Action: To be posted on the website **(JM)**

Action list all completed.

3. **NBTC & RTC Chair's Meeting, 18th March 2024**

Craig Carroll attended both these meetings virtually.

CC feedback on the points RTC Members asked to be raised at these meetings:

Change in title of "HTCs" to "PBM Committee" - needs recognition as covers so much more than "Transfusion". Unfortunately, this was not something the NBTC would consider.

Issues of Refusal for Consent and Education in the NW being delivered by colleagues from the Jehovah's Witness Group. NBTC felt this wasn't an issue and needed to be dealt with locally. However, CC has maintained this needs to happen nationally so still exploring routes by which this can be looked at.

Key highlights from NBTC and RTC Chairs Meetings:

- Transfusion 2024 - launch of Transfusion Training Hub to support the professional development of scientific and clinical colleagues. Provides direct links to many resources all in one place.
- National Haemoglobinopathy Register now live.
- Infected Blood Inquiry (IBI) to be reported on 20th May 2024.

RTC Chairs now paid for some of their time so Trusts should be freeing up time for the chair's. As a region need to look at how better we can work as an RTC, addressing things like how Anaemia / Cell Salvage and how these areas are being dealt with. Suggested setting up regional working groups, having representatives from each Trust.

Action: JM to email members requesting expressions of interest in joining these groups. **(JM)**

A copy of the minutes from these meetings are available by contacting Jane Murphy, NW RTC Administrator jane.murphy@nhsbt.nhs.uk

4. NHSBT Customer Services & PBM Updates

Customer Services

Presentation given by Rukhsana Hashmat. Updates on:

- Irradiation Indicator labels
Currently use 2 types – Gemma & X-ray. Colindale and Manchester Hospital Services will soon change to irradiating blood components by X-ray from May 2024.
- National Haemoglobinopathy Register (NHR)
NHR now available. Please can all centres looking after patients with haemoglobinopathies ensure their laboratory data on red cell antibodies is entered on the NHR to ensure the NHR holds a relatively complete data set of antibodies for a patient. If you do not have access to the NHR, please contact your haemoglobinopathy lead and they can ensure access is provided.
- NHS England funded programme for blood group genotyping
Improving blood matching for people living with anaemias, sickle cell disorder, & thalassemia. Blood group genotyping began January 2024, for all people in England.
Forms & resources: [NHS England programme for Haemoglobinopathy blood group genotyping - International Blood Group Reference Laboratory - NHS Blood and Transplant \(nhsbt.nhs.uk\)](#)
- Removal of maximum age requirements for red cell transfusion
This change will improve the ability to provide patients with red cells that better match their extended phenotype, especially for patients when they are not phenotype. Red cells up to standard shelf life are considered appropriate for transfusion to all patient groups, excluding neonates and infants receiving large volume transfusions.
- R2R Blood
Three days advance notice of this component R2R2 requirement allows us to move this unit between our hospital services departments. Currently, 50% of all R2R2 requests are received with less than one day notice. Would like all arthritic patients to have the phenotype they need. Need your help in identifying what barriers there is to ordering in advance.

PBM

Presentation given by Jo Bark. Highlights:

- Transfusion Training Hub
New resource launched a couple of weeks ago. Developed as part of Transfusion 2024 strategy and is a one stop shop of transfusion resources all in one web page which supports professional development. It is free and accessible on the NBTC website.
- Blood Essentials
Digital knowledgebase replacing A Drop/Wealth of Knowledge expected to be launched by the end of April 2024.
- 2023 NCA Audit of Audit QS138
Published on 29th February 2024. Two recommendations from the audit.
 - Hospitals to continue to look at barriers to any implementation, to comply with the NICE quality statement.

- Hospitals to undertake regular audit using the QS Quality Insights Audit Tool. Encourage any hospitals not signed up, to do so and those hospitals who have signed up, please continue to use the tool to input audit data. The more data that is in the tool, the better the comparative data will be.
- Social media
PBM England X (Twitter): @PBM_NHS
PBM England YouTube Channel: [Patient Blood Management England - YouTube](#)

5. Feedback from Hospitals

Thank you to Amanda Gould who presented the feedback from the 15 HTC reports received. Transfusion Practitioners mostly completed the reports.

Highlights

HTC Achievements - themes

- Electronic tracking systems – funding and implementation
- Link staff training.
- Improved competency and training, traceability compliance – achieved 100%.
- Major Haemorrhage process reviewed.
- Merging Trusts – standardising paperwork and processes
- New staff

HTC Key Priorities - themes

- Review of TACO (following Patient Safety Alert)
- Reviewing HTC and improving engagement
- Updating policies and documents
- EPR – Electronic requesting and prescribing
- Rollout of electronic tracking systems

HTC Audits in Progress / Completed - themes.

- National audits completed or ongoing.
- Bedside audits – including staff performing transfusion (agency)
- Authorisation / paperwork audits / consents
- Staff capacity mentioned as limitation to audits.

Concerns / Constraints

SaBTO Guidance on Consent; would it be more practical to have a National Transfusion Consent process. When new processes are released, guidance is given so there is a national approach to change.

In addition to the standard questions asked, the following is feedback from the additional information requested from Hospitals:

LIMS

- Trusts looking to upgrade: 7.
- Advantages of new system:
 - Harmonization and standardization between different trusts
- Disadvantages of new system:
 - Staff engagement and time to validate and implement a whole new system.

- Process changes (one Trust mentioned, they'd lost automated serological cross matching, which meant that more patients were barred from electronic issue, therefore, increased lab workload)
- ABO Cryo couldn't be issued to unknown patients.
- Change and authorisation of results.

Regional Access to Apheresis

- Some hospitals do have an SLA.
- Most Trusts said clinicians would access this direct with NHSBT.

Clinical Transfusion Training

- Mainly Transfusion Specialist provide the training.
- Lots of variation in how the training is delivered and the time frames required.
- Trusts who already us NHSBT e-learning would be interested in a generic / transferable transfusion training mandatory training module.

Presentation available by contacting Jane Murphy, NW RTC Administrator
jane.murphy@nhsbt.nhs.uk

6. DiT Mandatory Training Streamlining - Transfusion

Kelly Stephenson, Project Lead for DiT MT Streamlining Project from Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust gave presentation on this project. Presentation was sent out prior to the meeting.

Aim of project

- In addition to the core 11 from the CSTF we are proposing having a set of agreed additional mandatory training for trainees which stays with them and is transferable when they rotate between Trusts.
- Prevents Trainees having to unnecessarily repeat mandatory training, improves productivity by removing unwarranted variation.
- Improves compliance rates for trainees and therefore patient safety.

If you wish to work with the team, please contact
ditlocalisedtrainingstreamliningproject@sthk.nhs.uk

7. Regional Blood Component Wastage

Presentation given by Chris Gallagher. Highlighting:

- Interpretation of the monthly component reports
- Regional issues and wastage – pre/post amber alert

Action: Presentation to be share. (JM)

8. Platelet Transfusion Practice

Feedback was presented by Asha Elmi (F2), Ryan Peysner (F1) and Danielle Monteil (ST5) from Haemato-Oncology at Clatterbridge Cancer Centre on a recent Audit on Platelet Usage and Wastage.

9. AOB

November Education Event

On behalf of NBTC, the NW RTC will be hosting an event on “Consent, Refusal and Alternatives”. Date to be confirmed. If anyone knows of any specific experts in this field that they feel could contribute to a national presentation, please contact Jane Murphy, NW RTC Administrator jane.murphy@nhsbt.nhs.uk

10. Evaluation

Evaluation Form

Feedback is vital from members who attend RTC meetings as this helps plan and support future meetings. Members were asked to complete an online evaluation which was sent out following the meeting.

The results of the evaluations for this meeting were as follows:

- Completion rate of forms was poor – 25%.
- Feedback received:
 - Do you feel the agenda items relevant? Yes - 100%
 - How well were the agenda items discussed? Excellent/Good - 100%
 - Overall, how would you rate the meeting? Excellent/Good - 94%
 - Recommend NW RTC Meeting to others Yes – 94%

11. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 14th October 2024, 10am – 12:30pm via MS Teams.