

North East & Yorkshire RTC Meeting Minutes

13:00 – 16:00 Wednesday 13 November 2024

Attendees		
Islam Abdallah	IA	Biomedical Scientist, Leeds
Adnan Akram	AA	Specialist Registrar, NHSBT
Kate Atkinson	KA	Transfusion Practitioner, Leeds
Abraham Aweda	AA	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Goole
Laura Baglow	LB	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Harrogate
Amanda Baxter	ABa	Transfusion Practitioner, Sheffield Children's
Helen Baxter	HB	Senior Biomedical Scientist, South Tees & North Tees
Gillian Bell	GB	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Lucy Bevan	LB	Transfusion Practitioner, Newcastle
Jazz Bradley	JBr	Business Data Analyst, South Tees
Jill Braithwaite	JB	Advanced Practitioner, Northern Lincolnshire & Goole
Christopher Broadbent	CB	Senior Biomedical Scientist, North Tees
David Bruce	DB	Head of RCI Newcastle, NHSBT
Amanda Burns	ABu	Chief BMS, Hull & East Yorkshire
Michael Carrick	MC	Consultant Anaesthetist and Chair of HTC, Leeds
Victoria Chong-Cave	VCC	Biomedical Scientist, Co Durham & Darlington
Robin Coupe	RC	Customer Service Manager, NHSBT
Debra Cox	DC	Transfusion Practitioner, North Tees
Laura Duffy	LD	Transfusion Practitioner, Newcastle
Khaled El-Ghariani	KEG	Consultant Haematologist, Chair of HTC, Sheffield Teaching
Jay Faulkner	JF	Transfusion Practitioner, Leeds
Stephanie Ferguson	SF	Transfusion Practitioner, Leeds
Alison Hirst	AH	Transfusion Practitioner, Airedale
James Holloway	JH	Haematologist, Leeds
George Holmes	GH	Clinical lead for Transfusion, Northumbria
Katie Hunter	KH	Transfusion Practitioner, Northumbria
Wasim Hussain	WH	Customer Service Manager, NHSBT
Catrina Ivel	CI	Transfusion Practitioner, York and Scarborough
Juliet James	JJ	Transfusion Practitioner, Co Durham & Darlington
Angela Kanny	AK	Haemostasis and Thrombosis link
Marina Karakantza	MK	Consultant Haematologist, NHSBT
Sam Kershaw	SK	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Calderdale and Huddersfield
Abby Knox	AK	Biomedical Scientist, South of Tyne
Rohit Kumar	RKu	Neonatal Representative
Michelle Lake	ML	Transfusion Practitioner, Calderdale & Huddersfield
Joanne Lawson	JL	Blood Sciences Departmental Manager, Co Durham & Darlington
Jemma Mawson	JM	Specialist Biomedical Scientist, Sheffield Teaching
Carole McBride	CMc	Transfusion Practitioner, Mid Yorkshire
Tony Minto	TM	Senior Biomedical Scientist, Gateshead
Alison Muir	AM	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Newcastle
James Naseem	JN	Scientific Training Officer, NHSBT
Janet Nicholson	JN	Transfusion Practitioner, North Cumbria
Jill Parkinson	JP	Transfusion Practitioner, Bradford

Ric Procter	RP	Chair , A&E Consultant and Chair of HTC, South Tees
Jordan Reed	JRe	Transfusion Practitioner, York and Scarborough
Emma Richards	ER	Transfusion Practitioner, Doncaster & Bassetlaw
Janice Robertson	JR	Minutes , RTC Administrator, NHSBT
Alexandra Rosa	AR	Clinical Scientist – haematology, Hull & East Yorkshire
Michelle Scott	MS	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Sheffield Childrens
Jo Shorthouse	JS	Patient Blood Management Practitioner, NHSBT
Michelle Skee	MS	Transfusion Practitioner, Northumbria
Faye Smith	FS	Transfusion Practitioner, Harrogate
Kayleigh Smith	KS	Specialist Registrar, NHSBT
Abby Sparkes	AS	Biomedical Scientist, Barnsley
Brian Taylor	BT	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Sheffield Teaching
James Taylor	JT	Consultant Haematologist, Chair of HTC, Rotherham
Angeline Thiongo	AT	Transfusion Practitioner, Sheffield Teaching
Gemma Timms	JT	Consultant Anaesthetist and Chair of HTC, Newcastle
Helen West	HW	Transfusion Practitioner, Bradford
Benjamin Wetherell	BW	Consultant Anaesthetist and Chair of HTC, Bradford
Abbie White	AW	Transfusion Practitioner, Northern Lincolnshire & Goole

Apologies		
Aimi Baird	AB	Transfusion Practitioner, Newcastle
Carol Blears	CB	Transfusion Practitioner, Mid Yorkshire
Carolyn Carveth-Marshall	CCM	Transfusion Practitioner, South Tees
Andrew Charlton	AC	Consultant Haematologist, Newcastle and NHSBT
Laura Condren	LC	Transfusion Technical Lead, South of Tyne Clinical Pathology Services
Clive Graham	CG	Consultant Microbiologist, Chair of HTC, North Cumbria
Teodora Groza	TD	Deputy Chair , Consultant Cardiac Anaesthetist, Leeds
Nicola Keeping	NK	Haematology Departmental Manager, South of Tyne Clinical Pathology Services
Lisa McCallion	LMc	Transfusion Practitioner, Calderdale & Huddersfield
Chantal Morrell	CM	Blood Transfusion Quality Coordinator, Co Durham & Darlington
Mark Liversidge	ML	Transfusion Practitioner, Barnsley
Karen Nesbitt	KN	Transfusion Practitioner, Gateshead
Annette Nicolle	AN	Consultant Haematologist, Gateshead
Karen Simblet	KS	QA Manager, NHSBT Newcastle
Vicky Waddoups	VW	Transfusion Practitioner, Rotherham
Karen Ward	KW	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Northumbria
Tracey Watson	TW	Head of RCI Barnsley, NHSBT
Megan Wrightson	MW	Transfusion Practitioner, South Tees
Jemma Yorke	JY	Consultant Obstetrician, Chair of HTC, Co Durham & Darlington

1.	Welcome
	RP welcomed the group.
2.	Education Section
	Presentations available via Janice.robertson@nhsbt.nhs.uk if required.
	Gene therapy in haemophilia Presented by Angela Kanny

	Model Health Presented by Jazz Bradley			
	Register to use Model Health System via Register NHS England applications			
	Updates from SHOT - Safety culture in transfusion laboratories Presented by Tony Minto			
	Updates from BBTS - Future of Blood Components – Spray dried plasma project Presented by Abby Knox			
	Updates from BBTS - Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) Presented by Abby Sparkes			
	Review of National Guidelines / Research Papers Presented by Marina Karakantza			
	 Clinical research update.pdf  A multicenter study of DDAVP versus plate			
3.	Apologies for absence, minutes of last meetings and matters arising			
	Apologies noted. Minutes of previous meeting, 05.06.2024 confirmed Action: Post confirmed minutes onto NBTC website.			
	Project Plan reviewed			
3.1	Matters arising			
Closed	Confirmed minutes of previous meeting posted onto NBTC website.			
Closed	Re: Hull training for non-medical staff and competency sessions for doctors. Joanne Bowden confirmed that introducing workshops gives easy access to face-to-face training as sometimes it is not easy to access the links practitioners due to shift patterns.			
Closed	Does your Trust print antibody cards for patients? included in report template for next meeting			
Closed	Albumin shortage should be resolved by January 2025. Plasma for Medicines consider that this is a pharmacy issue and Trusts should liaise with them.			
4	Update from NBTC			
	 Update from NBTC.pdf			
5.	Reports from Hospital Transfusion Teams			
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"> Airedale NHS Trust  Airedale .pdf </td> <td style="text-align: center;"> Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust  Barnsley.pdf </td> <td style="text-align: center;"> Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  Bradford.pdf </td> </tr> </table>	Airedale NHS Trust  Airedale .pdf	Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust  Barnsley.pdf	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  Bradford.pdf
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<p>Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust</p>  <p>Calderdale and Huddersfield .pdf</p>	<p>County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust</p>  <p>Co Durham & Darlington.pdf</p>	<p>Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p>  <p>Doncaster & Bassetlaw.pdf</p>
<p>Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust</p>  <p>Harrogate.pdf</p>	<p>Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust</p>  <p>Leeds.pdf</p>	<p>Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust</p> <p>No report received</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>Northern Lincolnshire & Goole.pdf</p>
<p>North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>No report received</p>	<p>Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust</p>  <p>Northumbria.pdf</p>	<p>Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust</p>  <p>Sheffiled Childrens.pdf</p>
<p>The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust</p>  <p>Rotherham.pdf</p>	<p>Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p>  <p>Sheffiled Teaching.pdf</p>	<p>SHYPS Network (Scarborough Hull York Pathology Services)</p>  <p>SHYPS Network.pdf</p>
<p>South of Tyne Pathology (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>York & Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p>  <p>York & Scarborough.pdf</p>

Key points from reports:

- Newcastle – IBI gap analysis completed. This will be discussed at the HTC in December.
- Northumbria - Introduction of Kallidus to replace ESR has improved training and competency recording.
- Rotherham - Addition of all transfusion documents onto EPR to improve visibility and accessibility to users, this includes MHP. All special requirement flags for blood components notified on EPR with automatic email generation of addition/ removal of flag to Laboratory. DAT requests on digital requests.
- Sheffield Childrens – Frustration with lack of regular updates/news regarding amber alert to pass on to relevant departments. MK advised that the prediction for donations up to the end of the year is still tenuous.

- Sheffield Teaching – The Haematology department conducted an audit in to platelet wastage in response to high numbers of incidents. Identified that standing orders for named patients were not being cancelled when not required. Transfusion Registrars on rotation now involved with the HTT, this has proved to be very useful to both lab staff and registrars.
- SHYPS Network and Hull - Haemonetics blood tracking funding has been approved but cannot be pursued until new LIMS in place. This is a managed service contract between Hull, York & Scarborough which has eased pressure on funding for the Trusts.
TPs continue to provide monthly workshops for both non medical and medical staff for Transfusion competencies across both sites. Over 250 junior Drs trained on theory and competencies throughout August and September. This is done within standard TP capacity.
- Airedale – WinPath, currently antibody reports have to be manually copied and pasted from Sp-ICE into WinPath. HPDI work may improve on this.
- Barnsley - IT issues e.g. BadgerNet. After investigation concerning the number of IT systems within the Trust which have pathology results manually transcribed. It is hoped that the Transfusion Strategy may improve this, it has been raised beyond the RTC that BadgerNet is a significant concern.
- Bradford - IBI report as given extra backing to obtain funding for the full electronic transfusion system. Medical director in full support and sponsors our risk register issues around not having the full system.
The group welcomed Benjamin Wetherell (BW) Consultant Anaesthetist and new Chair of HTC.
- Calderdale and Huddersfield - On-going issues with mislabelled handwritten sample tubes from community nurses/midwives. (No digital solution in place for these areas) Key trainers in clinical areas lacking capacity to train staff. Improving slightly following return to the seven minute brief but still a concern.
- Doncaster & Bassetlaw - Bi-annual lunch time training sessions for doctors FY1 – ST4. This was a request from the doctors who noted the lack of transfusion training they receive and is going very well. Practice development roles have made a big difference withing the Trust.
- Leeds – Due to staffing issues, are doing a one site trial for 12hr shifts. Reports of positive feedback.
- MK highlighted an issue with the clinical governance of new WinPath systems across networks. This has highlighted that difference in practice across networks effects the integrity of the data within the system. Suggestion of a SLA to oversee the system.

Suggestions for key speakers / topics for future RTC meetings

- NHSBT component recall process
- Febrile reactions - investigation process
- Issues with not identifying transgender patients / Implications / Solutions
- Transfusion in Oncology
- Requirements from organisations re IBI going forward - national level

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Budget

- NE&Y RTC have funded:
 - Delegates to attend The SHOT Symposium and BBTS Annual Conference
 - Newcastle Blood Centre User Group meeting
 - Transfusion Practitioners meeting in September
 - RTT meeting in November
- Available to spend £3,334

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding is available for educational events (not post graduate). If delegates who received funding are unable to attend, we ask that they advise us a minimum of 24 hours prior to the event to allow us to obtain a refund. Although we normally stipulate that funding is for the delegate fee only, if Trusts are struggling with funding for transport we can discuss on a case by case basis. Please forward suggestions for use of the budget to RP/JR.
7.	Haemostasis and Thrombosis Matters
	See item 2.
8.	NHSBT Updates
8.1	<p>Customer Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delia Smith has accepted a permanent post as Regional Customer Service Manager – Projects and Customer Insights. Wassim Hussain (WH) has taken over the Trusts previously covered by Delia. WH has been a BMS for many years, both with NHSBT and a hospital setting. Amber Alert – Although the stock figures are currently healthy, there is some uncertainty about the sufficiency of stocks going forward. We do not expect to come out of Amber Alert until we are certain that we will not need to go back in again soon afterwards. Communications regarding the alerts are composed and agreed between NHSBT, NHS England and the Department of Health, this is in part why you may consider them to be relatively infrequent. Reports of difficulty finding an appointment in the relevant locality to donate blood have been passed on and will be taken on board. The initial wave of donation when the Amber Alert was called has created a problem further down the line as it brings forward people to donate and creates a lack of potential for donors in the coming weeks and months. What we need is people to donate regularly to maintain stability of the supply, so please do emphasise this to any colleagues that do contact you regarding difficulties in donating. Information and contact details for feedback can be found at https://www.blood.co.uk/
8.2	<p>Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update
8.3	<p>Patient Blood Management</p>  <p>PBM update .pdf</p>
8.4	<p>RCI</p>  <p>RCI update.pdf</p>
9.	Education and Training
9.1	<p>Upcoming RTC education events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consent, Refusal and Alternatives – North West RTC 15 November 2024 via Teams Appropriate Blood Use, Ensuring there is blood available for those who need it - BTEDG 27 November 2024 via Teams Plasma and Platelets – London RTC 22 January 2025 via Teams

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCI (compatibility, urgent transfusion in tricky patients) – Midlands RTC 06 February 2025 via Teams • Mums, Babies and Blood – East of England RTC 12 February 2025 via Teams <p>Details of virtual education programme available via https://www.transfusionguidelines.org/uk-transfusion-committees/regional-transfusion-committees/virtual-education-sessions</p>
9.2	<p>Non-Medical Authorisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming dates: 05 December 2024 • 2025 event dates will be released following the groups review meeting, currently scheduled for 11 December 24.
9.3	<p>National Transfusion Practitioner Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update
9.4	<p>Scientific and Technical Training</p>  <p>PITS and STSP Scientific Courses - De</p>
10.	Audits / Standards / Studies
10.1	<p>National Comparative Audits</p> <p>Current / Upcoming audits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCA Repeat audit of NICE Quality Standard QS138 (October 2024) • NCA Major Haemorrhage audit (Spring 2025) <p>Latest reports published:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 National Comparative Audit of Bedside Transfusion Practice (Re-audit) Full report 2024-bedside-transfusion-audit-report-final.pdf Key Findings 2024-bedside-transfusion-key-points.pdf • 2023 Audit of NICE Quality Standard QS138 Full report 2023-nice-gs138-final-audit-report.pdf Key Findings 2023-gs138-key-points.pdf <p>National Comparative Audit of Blood Transfusion website: https://hospital.blood.co.uk/audits/national-comparative-audit</p>
10.2	<p>Regional Surveys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of the 'Reporting of transfusion reactions in patients that have left the Hospital' survey. Presented by James Holloway Action: Set up a working group to take this forward
11.	Reports from RTC groups
11.1	<p>Transfusion Practitioners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last meeting: 11 September 24 face to face meeting, venue: Darlington Arena The meeting was well attended, there were education sessions in the morning with the business meeting in the afternoon. • ML will be standing down as chair of the group, JRe has agreed to take over from the new year.
11.2	<p>Centre Users Groups</p> <p>Barnsley – Face to face meeting held 05 November 2024 (1st since the centre opened)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Featured feedback on the Amber Alert along with local NHSBT updates and discussion of regional matters.

	<p>Newcastle – Face to face meeting held 02 October 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Featured a presentation on 'Results of hospital survey for transfusion knowledge gaps,' and discussion on issues with Badgernet along with local NHSBT updates and discussion of regional matters. <p>The group felt that the information on Badgernet should have come out as a formal safety alert rather than an email from NHSBT. All Trusts have escalated to executive level and were informed that mitigations are in place.</p> <p>As this is a small group, we are looking at option to improve attendance.</p>
11.3	<p>NBTC Laboratory Managers Group</p> <p>Meeting 12 September 24 (BT unable to attend)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MHRA are upgrading the Serious Adverse Blood Reactions and Events (SABRE) website to improve functionality. Next meeting 19 November 24.
11.4	<p>National Transfusion Practitioner Network</p> <p>Post meeting note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Transfusion Practitioner Network (NTPN) currently consists of representatives from each of the Regional Transfusion Practitioner Networks in England and has representation from the British Blood Transfusion Society (BBTS), the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) and NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) Patient Blood Management (PBM) team. The NTPN is undergoing a much-needed relaunch of the network with the aims of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring we are able to demonstrate the roles of the TPs at Trust, regional and national levels supporting the ongoing efforts to develop a professional framework actioning feedback from TP2024/Transfusion Transformation working and steering groups aligning the network with the restructuring of the RTCs actioning recommendations of the IBI report The webpage on the working group section of the NBTC website is being reviewed, to enhance the resources available to TPs nationally. Representation has been increased to include at least two representatives per region, this is to improve attendance at each meeting as well as adding nursing and patient representatives to the group. <p>This is an exciting time to be a Transfusion Practitioner (TP), and over the coming months, there will be many opportunities to get involved in various national groups working on projects to improve patient safety and strengthen good practice in blood transfusion. Involvement from the whole TP community will be crucial in making this relaunch a success. These opportunities will be circulated via the RTC administrators to all TPs, please do volunteer for anything that piques your interest and do not worry about your level of experience, we require enthusiasm above all else.</p>
11.5	<p>Trauma Network update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update
11.6	<p>Transfusion I.T. group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interaction at most recent meeting has been poor. To help decide how we move forward with this group, we have circulated a questionnaire to review progress to date and hopefully provide some direction for the future of this group. Response rate was poor so a request to complete this has been resent. If you are a member of this group, could you please complete this questionnaire.

11.7	<p>Education Working group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haemoglobinopathies event – 09 October 24.  <p>Haemoglobinopathies programme.pdf</p> <p>309 delegates attended, 97% of those who completed the evaluation rated the event excellent or good. Some technical issues on the day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future Education Events <p>Canvassing for topics, please forward any suggestions to JR.</p>
12.	A.O.B.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any suggestions to stream line the RTC meetings to be forwarded to RP/JR JRe thanked ML for her contribution and chairing of the Regional TP group over the past 3 years and for the support from MW and JR in the transition period. ABu advised that the quality and design of the blood banks in Hull & East Yorkshire is not particularly good. They are only one year old and recently failed mapping due to wide variation across the unit. It was felt that the quality and design of the newer models are not as robust as the previous models and seals are easily damaged. Variation across the unit on mapping was reported to the supplier when the blood banks were first installed but as it was within tolerance, they did not act on this. BT advised alternative suppliers and noted that labs should qualify what will happen if the fridge does not perform as it should on purchase orders. KH asked for suggestions on how Trusts are implementing the IBI recommendation - How are people recording the outcomes of transfusion? MH advised that except for the full blood count and the repeat of the haemoglobin post transfusion we do not have any outcomes that we can use. MH feels that this is work that needs to be done by the NBTC and Transfusion Transformations. Action: Take to NBTC
13.	Date of next meetings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 March 2025 11 June 2025 10 November 2025

RTC – Action list

Item No	Action	By Whom
3	Post confirmed minutes of previous meeting onto NBTC website.	JR
10.2	Set up a working group to take 'Reporting of transfusion reactions in patients that have left the Hospital' forward.	RTT
12	Take 'Implementing the IBI recommendation - How are people recording the outcomes of transfusion?' to the NBTC.	RC