

# South East Regional Transfusion Team

Wednesday 11 December 2024

Via Microsoft Teams

## Minutes

| <b>Present:</b>                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Kerry Dowling (KD)<br>Deputy Chair | Transfusion Laboratory Manager, University Hospitals Southampton            |
| Howard Wakeling (HW)<br>Chair      | Consultant Anaesthetist, University Hospitals Sussex                        |
| Ruth O'Donnell (RO'D)              | Transfusion Practitioner, University Hospitals Sussex                       |
| Tanya Hawkins (TH)                 | Transfusion Practitioner, Royal Berkshire (BSPS)                            |
| Emily White (EW)                   | Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Isle of Wight NHS Trust                     |
| Emma O'Donovan (EO'D)              | Consultant Anaesthetist, Sussex & Surrey Healthcare Trust                   |
| Susan Mitchell (SM)                | Transfusion Laboratory Manager, East Kent Hospitals                         |
| Jonathan Ricks (JR)                | Lead Transfusion Practitioner, University Hospitals Southampton             |
| Lauren Hamilton (LH)               | Transfusion Practitioner, University Hospitals Oxford                       |
| Liz Tatam (LT)                     | Transfusion Practitioner, sussex & Surrey Healthcare Trust                  |
| Kim East (KE)                      | Lead Transfusion Practitioner, Berkshire & Surrey Pathology Services (BSPS) |
| Simon Stanworth (SS)               | Consultant Haematologist, NHSBT   |
| Carol Stenning (CS)                | Customer Services Manager – Southampton, NHSBT                              |
| Shabana Tufail (ST)                | Customer Services Manager – Oxford, NHSBT                                   |
| Danny Bolton (DB)                  | Customer Services Manager – Tooting, NHSBT                                  |
| Frances Moll (FM)                  | RTC Admin (Minutes), NHSBT  |

| <b>Apologies:</b> |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Anwen Davies      | Lisa March     |
| Zoe Summat        | Nelson Johnson |

| <b>MINUTES</b>  |
|---|
| <b>Welcome and Apologies</b><br>KD chaired the meeting.<br>(HW apologised that clinical commitments might call him away).   |
| <b>Review of Minutes</b> – meeting held on 24 September 2024 – the minutes were approved as being a true record. These could be uploaded to the website.<br><b>Action points:</b> the actions not completed feature within the agenda.  |
| <b>Terms of Reference (ToRs)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>RTT Membership</b> – it was agreed the review of the Terms of Reference would take place after the launch of Transfusion Transformation (planned for April). FM relayed the following from AD – to be considered to add within the ToRs there should be reference to Stock Shortages, to include “supporting others, communicating during shortages”.<br/>This item is to be included on the next RTT agenda, plus membership and chairmanship. <b>ACTION</b></li></ul> |



2022 Terms of  
Reference for SE RTT (

- **Patient Representatives** – FM to send the ToRs to KD to approach her patient contact. **ACTION**



RTC Patient  
Representative Docun

### **SE RTC Budget**

**Cost for Transfusion Bites** – the Hotel did not increase the price for 2024 – the final cost was agreed money well spent.

**Remaining Budget** – members discussed the use of the remaining budget for 2024. Some regions covered registration fees for delegates wishing to attend education events eg IBMS Congress/ SHOT. Any payment would have to be made before March 31. Payment would not include travel or accommodation.

There was also a suggestion to purchase headsets for the virtual training system as demonstrated at a previous SE RTC education event.

FM to research the rules regarding the RTC budget. (**post meeting:** items such as: books, equipment etc cannot be purchased from the RTC budget).

### **Blood Stocks** – ST provided an update:

There is still an Amber Alert for O red cells, positive and negative; and Pre-amber A Neg platelets. There is always added pressure over the holiday period. It was hoped the current campaigns would encourage more/new donors.

### **Customer Service Managers' Update** - ST drew attention to the following:

RCI are stopping hard copy reports (from 2 June) – only available through Sp-ICE - If this presents any problems, please let the CSMs know by 1<sup>st</sup> February. **ACTION** There is a toolkit available to help with risk assess and manage the change. There is a change to order for LVT. Available on the OBOS training site from 9 December 2024, and will go live on 1 February 2025.



CSMs update 11  
December 2024.pdf

### **CS provided an update for Southampton:**

**Emergency platelet and red cell issue room:** On 21 November a power outage occurred, the site successfully moved from mains to generator power and once the outage was restored the site attempted to switch back to mains supplied power. However, the control panel failed and resulted in the site being without power from 0745.

Business continuity plans were enacted by departments and a local emergency team was instated. All components were successfully transferred from Southampton to Tooting and no components were wasted.

A temporary generator was requested as were various engineers.

Due to the unpredictable nature of the situation, it was escalated to a national emergency. Where possible onsite staff were sent home to work, for the remaining colleagues with huge thanks to KD, a room was found for them at SGH.

Engineers managed to get the power back on, but this was a temporary fix with long term repairs now being investigated.

There was also a temporary issue where the outage knocked out our temperature monitoring, but this was restored by that evening with a view to return stock back and to be able to supply emergency and ad hoc components as of Saturday at 0800. This was communicated to Hospitals on the Friday morning, however by the end of the day Friday an engineer had identified that should there be a further outage the power supply would not switch automatically from mains to generator and this switch would need to be performed manually by a certified engineer.

The SLA for the engineer is currently 4 hours and it was felt that this posed too great a risk for blood stock, especially in the light of the current Amber alert and by the end of the day Friday hospitals were informed that components would not be returning to Southampton. The following Monday the decision was made to return only an emergency stock holding to Southampton as of Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>.

Further engineer repairs and testing resulted in the decision to move stock back to Southampton on 5 December, and the capacity to return to providing emergency and ad hoc deliveries was reinstated on 6 December.

CS thanked everyone again for their continued patience and support.

### **Workplan**

**2024 Final Review** – the workplan showed the activities for the past year – these would be reflected in the Annual Report.

### **Working Groups** - Recruitment / Training / Retention - what next?

It was agreed the presentations - given at Transfusion Bites - would be collated – FM

**ACTION.** RO'D also agreed to put together a list of resources for retention - **ACTION**).

With the overall aim to share some good practices, the working groups had gone as far as they could. The topics could not be resolved within the region – it was recognised this was a national issue.

KD thanked all those who had contributed to the working groups.

The RTT will consider the outcomes from Transfusion Transformation and the IBI working groups.

**Workplan 2025** – the workplan has been populated with the meetings for the year.

Supplementary pages include suggestions made at the joint TP/TLM meeting and Transfusion Bites event for consideration for the coming year.



Draft SE workplan  
and proposed ideas.p

KD invited members to look at the suggestions, and which they might like to include as a theme/topic for an education event in the coming year. If there are any topic/s that might benefit from a working group taking a more in-depth look to add value. **ACTION**

SS would be willing to pull together a talk (or two) linked to paediatric or neonatal transfusion thresholds if this was a topic to be considered.

There was general agreement that the IBI, obstetrics/paediatrics and haemorrhage could be our themes for the year. Subject to the choice given by NBTC.

KE queried if the results from the O Neg Survey could be used – any lessons learned? KD thought the results would be available in the new year – possible March? It could be added to the workplan suggestions for consideration **ACTION**

**Annual Report** – this is an opportunity to celebrate activities in 2024 – **please send any information** about awards/ posters / achievements etc to FM for inclusion in this year’s report. **ACTION**

**Education Events Feedback:**

TP/TLM joint meeting (23 October)

RTC Education Event – Transfusion Bites (12 November)

Both events had been well received –



Evaluation summary  
2024 - two education

Members briefly discussed the use of gender specific terms, and it was agreed that where possible gender-neutral terms should be used or include the phrase “sex assigned at birth”.

HW asked about comparative costs between the Southampton venue and the London venue – Royal College of Anaesthetists? It was difficult to make an exact comparison – numbers would be restricted (there is a limit on the room), and the food was more expensive, but it would be more accessible from different parts of the region.

HW to follow up with the Association of Anaesthetists. **ACTION**

**National Blood Transfusion Committee – Education Events 2025**

The topics provided, were issued for comment by the RTC Chairs, the wording may change slightly, but they will be put forward to all the RTC Chairs for selection on a first come first served basis – **likely to be in January**.

The e-mail for selection will go to HW. **ACTION**

Members discussed the proposed topics and agreed they would be happy with:

[Number 7 – Management of adverse events including PSIRF, human factors and safety](#). LH – thought this was an interesting topic.

HW - This could include electronic systems, manual systems, KD - guest speakers from SHOT, MHRA’s thoughts on PSIRF and their requirements – there’s a lot to work with under this topic.

**Or**

[Number 2 - Special components and special requirements \[not specifically paed\]](#)

**Standing Items – updates**

- **QS138 Insight Tool** – results previously circulated by AD (SE PBMP)

Summary of key points:

- Fourth audit cycle completed in November, auditing cases from July-September. Best regional participation to date, 23 sites took part.
- Results discussed at TP meeting last week, data extraction 29/11/24. Useful discussions held on sharing practice and overcoming barriers.
- Good compliance seen for tranexamic acid and reassessment after a unit is transfused.

- Areas of biggest concerns remain the provision of written information, capture of true practice regarding iron deficiency.
- Discussed that clarification on surgery types deemed as eligible cases for 'TXA' would facilitate audit and benchmarking, particularly vascular.
- Feedback to be captured to identify shared learning opportunities.
- 147 sites signed up nationally to date. >8300 cases audited nationally, of which ~4100 are from the SE. South West and Wales are now also in a quality improvement cycle.
- Approached by National TP Network who are looking to support uptake nationally in 2025.
- **Transfusion Transformation** – nothing to update. Launch planned for April. Still likely to be the three pillars around: PBM, workforce and digitalization.
- **TP Meeting** (5 December) – JR provided the update –The most recent QS138 results had stimulated a positive and useful discussion – how we gather the data, and how to might progress to achieve the statements. Plus, the meeting had a presentation given by a representative from the Jehovah's Witness Hospitals Liaison Committee.
- **TLM meetings**
  - **Ox/Soton** (20 November) – ST reported this had been a “quiet” meeting, work pressures being one of the causes for a small attendance.
  - **TADG** (17 October) – DB reported the main subject for discussion was the London Cyber-attack. The group were invited to discuss what their Trusts were doing to recover from and mitigate against such attacks. The discussion was quite muted, perhaps because people were still recovering and not yet ready to share.

KD hoped there might be an educational event, which would help others to plan and prepare for possible future attacks.

NCA Audit (for information)

- Spring 2025 Major Haemorrhage audit

### **NHSBT Update**

- PBMP update (circulated prior to meeting)

Summary of key points:

- Recently launched resources and upcoming education signposted in the attached pdf.
- Coming soon: Updated PBM website; Baby Blood Assist; Fit to Donate: A PBM and Blood Supply collaboration to raise awareness of the importance of donor health.
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PBM Update  
December 2024.pdf

### **AOB**

- Dates for 2025 – FM to circulate date options (now agreed see below)
- Education Dates tba

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 12 February 2025 (1315 – 1515)**

Future Dates: (1300 – 1500)

Tuesday 13 May; Tuesday 9 September; Wednesday 10 December.