

Minutes of the Transfusion Laboratory Managers Working Group of the NBTC

Tuesday 16th April 2024

11:00am – 12:30pm

Present		
Julie Staves	(JS)	Chair and South East region
Kerry Dowling	(KD)	Deputy Chair, TLM, Southampton
Jane Murphy	(JM)	Administrator
Kirk Beard	(KB)	Stock Management & Production Manager
Pete Baker	(PB)	North West region
Anna Capps-Jenner	(ACJ)	London region (private labs)
Heather Clarke	(HC)	East Midlands region
Anna Dobson	(AD)	West Midlands region
Ruth Evans	(RE)	Scientific and Clinical Training Organisation and Workforce Development, NHSBT
Wisdom Musabaike	(WM)	Assistant Director, RCI, NHSBT
Chris Philips	(CP)	Head of Hospital Customer Service, NHSBT
Katherine Philpott	(KP)	East of England region
Chris Robbie	(CR)	MHRA representative
Zoe Sammut	(ZS)	South East region
Brian Taylor	(BT)	North East and Yorkshire region
Karen Ward	(KW)	North East and Yorkshire region
Tim Wreford-Bush	(TWB)	South West region


Apologies		
Dan Willis	(DW)	MOD Defence Pathology

Minutes		
15.24	Welcome & Apologies	Actions
	JS welcomed all to the meeting. The minutes from the last meeting held via MS Teams on 10 th January 2024 were agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting. Small typo corrected.	
	Actions update	
02.23	Sarstedt Tubes JS updated still no response from NBTC around Issues with Sarstedt tubes and the reformatting of the label which has been causing issues in local hospitals. Action: JS and ZS to discuss way forward following meeting and provide update to group.	JS / ZS
04.23	Welcome Pack for New TLMs JS has recontacted Aimi Baird regarding pack. Unfortunately, Aimi is currently off so item carried forward to September. Action: Welcome Pack for new TLMs carried forward to September.	JS
13.23	Transfer of Units with Neonates JS confirmed for her region they do not transfer blood with neonates. No feedback from other regions. No further action.	
03.24	Blood Delivery of Drones (MOD Update) No urgency as currently no funding. Action: Carried forward – JS to contact DW to discuss blood delivery by drones.	JS
03.24	Dried plasma available on procurement (MOD Update) Action: carried forward - DW to get clarification from MHRA about whether dried plasma could be available for procurement.	DW
	All other actions either completed or form part of the agenda.	
16.24	Regional Updates	
	<u>South East (Kerry Dowling)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usual staffing issues. • Shared learning from SHOT reporting events. • Southampton: No change, still no final plans. Emergency provisions expanded - UHS have taken short dated stock to enable them to expand what they are holding. Donor Centre to be moved first, then review space to decide on next steps. 	
	<u>South East (Zoe Sammut)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTC Education / Business Management Planning Meeting held on 27th February. • LIMS: All sites in low level design currently. • Pathology Management restructure. • Recruitment: Struggling to recruit – strange as certain hospitals are recruiting quite easily and others aren't. 	

	<p><u>East of England (Kath Philpott)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TADG face to face meeting held in March which saw very low attendance. Surprised as have lots of new lab managers. • Lots of UKAS inspections. • Delays with implementation of IT and analysers. • Recruitment of staff – issues in recruitment due to lots of senior staff changes. • SWIFT: Region has now signed up for the trial. 	
	<p><u>North East & Yorkshire (Brian Taylor)</u></p> <p>Yorkshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathology network went live on 1st April. • Sheffield Teaching Hospital will be the host organisation for the whole network and will look after HR issues for the region. • On the back of this, will be going forward with analyser tenders. • IT: Cerner Oracle System, to go live in April 2025. Hoping to get first look in May. <p>RTC planning meeting held to plan the education event on Haemoglobinopathies for later in the year.</p>	
	<p><u>North East & Yorkshire (Karen Ward)</u></p> <p>North East:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT: Cerner Oracle System is currently parked as region pulled out and went live with WINPATH. • User Group Meeting held in February. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Main discussion around transfusion PQAD metric and have been asked by the North East and North Cumbria Pathology SRG to develop some metrics for transfusion. ○ Interesting presentation given by North Tess and Hartlepool on “Knowledge versus Assumption in Healthcare Around Transgender and Nonbinary.” • Training academy developed for the Northeast and North Cumbria as a trial project. Idea is to recruit graduates and have them trained across various hospitals within the region to become BMS’s. 	
	<p><u>Midlands (Heather Clarke)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTC Meeting scheduled for 22nd May which will be a face-to-face meeting. • HTC: Locally still no chair and lack of attendance at meetings. Been escalated and on the risk register. • Staffing issues: Lots of applicants but not many making to interview stage. • Derbyshire going on to a new patient record system called Nerve Centre. In the early stages. 	
	<p><u>Midlands (Anna Dobson)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting held last month with good attendance so hoping for similar attendance for next meeting in June which will be face to face. • Staffing: Recruitment issues. Band 5’s struggling to complete portfolio. • C3G controls on UKAS inspections. 	
	<p><u>South West (Tim Wreford-Bush)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MHRA inspection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staffing ○ QMS 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Change control procedures. ○ SLA with the people who do the mapping of the fridges. ○ SLA with the Trust IT department required. • UKAS inspection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Couldn't attend the site so wanted to do a video conference of someone doing a cross match. However, not happy because of patient identification. Seniors did a mock cross match. ○ Clinical sign off of the validation of analysers. • Band 7 to support region in training. • HES shortage 	
	<u>North West (Pete Baker)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTC Business Meeting scheduled in April. 	
17.24	Engagement with other bodies	
	<u>T2024</u> (JS / KD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T2024 being renamed to Transfusion Transformation. • Symposium being held on 10th June - invitation only. • New strategy to be written. • Three strategic themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Digital capacity ○ Workforce ○ Education 	
	<u>Guidance on the Transfusion of Non-binary Patients</u> (JS / PB / KD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of RC Path workstream • JS / KD / PB are working with SHOT. • Toolkit to be produced along with other supportive documents. • Currently working on a document around; what labs need to know? Communication and IT. • There will be a terminology document and one for patients on, what they need to know? • Timeframe is late 2024. • Session at BBTS on "Gender Transfusion" with patient involvement. 	
	<u>Guidance of Reporting Blood Groups on Patients Who Are Going for Organ Donation</u> (JS / KD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEQAS report now out. • SHOT recommendations being written available Autumn 2024. 	
	<u>National Shared Care Working Group</u> (JS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New group being set up with NTPN. • 1 TLM and 1 TP from each region. • RCI representation. • Develop some shared care national paperwork. • Work towards a digital solution which may be part of Transfusion Transformation. <p>Action: JS to write to each region with more information on the National Shared Care Working Group.</p>	JS

	<p><u>Culture Survey</u> (KD)</p> <p>Not been released yet but it is going to be an interesting read. Suggested group have a 30-minute call once it is released.</p>	
18.24	Support for Lab Managers	
	<p><u>Webinars / Drop-in Sessions</u> (JS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has been on the group's agenda for over a year and biggest hurdle was what platform could be used to allow a drop-in session to be held. JS mentioned at the NBTC and Shruthi Narayan has offered the use of the SHOT Zoom platform. Will need to have own admin support. Suggested holding two types of sessions: educational 1 month / drop-in 1 month with 2 TLM's. Starting with a session on validation – maybe asking Tim to revamp his presentation from last year. Chris Robbie offered to give an overview of incident reporting. Sessions are for lab manager's / senior BMS's running a lab, rather than for every BMS. Start Autumn 2024. <p>Action: Think of ideas for an educational webinar on; what we think would help a new TLM? What do they need to know? Also, if you are willing to do drop-in sessions and any ideas for these.</p> <p>Action: Send ideas to JS by end of May.</p> <p>Action: JS to collate and will email group for discussion.</p> <p>Action: Ask on MHRA forum types of topics people would like.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL JS JS / KD</p>
19.24	Education	
	<p><u>General Update</u> (RE)</p> <p>Transfusion 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfusion Training Hub; a free, easily accessible webpage providing direct links to many educational transfusion resources all in one place. Education group did a survey internally of NHSBT staff, hospitals, and universities to find out how much transfusion training was in courses which is minimal. Proposing to employ somebody, funded by Transfusion 2024 to create resources to support universities and run sessions for lecturers at universities. <p>Action: JS to send RE the presentations done by her hospital.</p> <p>VR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood Identification App; now buyable on the Meta App Store. If hospitals already have VR headsets, cost is £25 to download the package. Has been very well received. ABO Blood Grouping Package: bid has been made to IBMS for funding to support. Waiting for confirmation. Stakeholder event to be held to scope out what should be included. Article in Biomedical Scientist on VR in science which IBMS are very keen to collaborate with us on. Crossmatching Project; still need more people to complete. If anyone has trainees that need training, please reach out to Laura Eastwood to help increase numbers so project can be evaluated. 	<p>JS</p>

	<p>Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live for 2025 and receiving lots of bookings. Have quite a lot of NHS England funded places. <p>Engaging with Haematology SpRs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project in the Essential Transfusion Medicine Course, an introductory half a day course to try to get SpRs to engage with their local labs. A workbook has been developed to help build relationships with their hospital labs. <p>Action: RE to circulate copy of ST3 workbook.</p> <p>North East Training Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To host at NHSBT, a week's course for BMS students before going out on placements to look at discipline they are going into and look at how it works. These placements make a difference to the quality of somebody who graduates at the end of a BMS degree. <p>Masters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohort 3 is doing well. Applications for Cohort 4 are open. Increasingly, students are MSC building through CPD modules. If a student feels the intensiveness, can do one module at a time which can take longer but still build the whole masters. 	RE
	<p><u>Engaging with Haem SpR Trainees</u> (JS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This came about following a conversation with Shuba Allard about the lack of knowledge by the SpR trainees around what goes on in their local labs and how they were struggling to get time in the lab. JS asked that when attending regional meetings, can mentioned to labs, to be mindful, if they have trainees to allow them to sit in on some training with your own BMS trainees. 	
20.24	MHRA Update	
	<p>CR gave an overview of last year's reporting. There has been an increase in the amount of serious adverse events from the previous years. Mostly in the incorrect blood component issued and pre transfusion testing category.</p> <p>Please see presentation below for full details of overview.</p> <p></p> <p>MHRA Report - Chris Robbie.pdf</p> <p>Action: JS to write to TLMs highlighting the good practice guide on the SHOT website</p>	JS
21.24	NHSBT	
	<p><u>Customer Services</u> (CP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courier contract moved to K & N. Please provide feedback. • Pricing and billing arrangement; outcome letter from the National Commissioning Group for Blood has not been signed off yet by the Department of Health & Social Care. Therefore, NHSBT has not issued confirmation of prices or the contract arrangements for pricing. Second letter sent to Trusts advising them having to bill on last year's prices until outcome letter has been signed off. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customer Satisfaction Survey now closed, and results will be shared at next meeting. 	
	KPIs Action: CP to circulate presentation from NBTC Meeting to the group.	CP
	<u>Assistant Director of RCI</u> Update given by WM. Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent UKAS assessment identified a few findings – 3 technical / 1 QMS along with some recommendations. Operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carried out cohort / synchronised recruitment and training. Grifols going live on 1st May across all 7 sites. Service Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfusion 2024 Electronic Requesting and Reporting Project; live with 7 HTLs and progressing with a further 25. Working towards a roll out with all Clinisys WPE and Epic users. If interested, please contact helen.thom@nhsbt.nhs.uk Transfusion 2024 RCI Assist and Remote Interpretation Pilot is ending. Interim analysis shows a reduction in the number of referrals to RCI when using the referral algorithm. Positive feedback received from pilot sites. Development of recommendations and next steps expected May 2024. Phasing Out Paper Reports; progressing with this. To hold planning meetings with stakeholders on how this will impact. Communications to be sent out. To start in April 2025. However, can do this sooner if requested. 	
22.24	External Meetings	
	Due to timings, this agenda item was not covered.	
23.24	NHSBT Supply Chain	
	<u>How can hospitals support this?</u> (KB) Due to timings, this agenda item was not covered.	
24.24	AOB	
	<u>Never Events</u> (JS) Consultation going on at NHS.GOV JS to put a response on behalf of the NTLMN advising do not want to lose transfusion off the never events list. Action: JS to send link to group.	
	<u>JS Absence</u> JS advised group she is having surgery on 29 th April and will be off for 4-6 weeks. KD will provide cover.	
25.24	2024 Meeting Dates	
	Wednesday 5 th June, 11am – 12:30pm via MS Teams	
	Thursday 12 th September, 10am – 3:30pm, face to face	

