

## EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL TRANSFUSION TEAM

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2025, 09:30am – 11:00am via Microsoft Teams.

### Attendance:

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Lynda Menadue <b>LM</b>	RTC Chair and HTC Chair - Peterborough	Julie Jackson <b>JJ</b>	TP / Joint TP Group Chair, James Paget Hospital
Dora Foukaneli <b>DF</b>	Consultant Haematologist NHSBT	Clare Neal <b>CN</b> <i>Minutes</i>	RTC Administrator, NHSBT
Frances Sear <b>FS</b>	PBMP, NHSBT	Katherine Philpott <b>KP</b>	TLM / Chair of TADG Group
Emily Rich <b>ER</b>	TP / Deputy TP Group Chair, NWAFT	Joanne Hoyle <b>JH</b>	TP, West Suffolk
Shinsu Kuruvilla	TP, Queen Elizabeth Hospital KL		

**Apologies:** Mohammed Rashid **MR** Lisa Cooke **LC** Suzanne Docherty **SD** Isabell Lentell **IL**

1. **Welcome LM** welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made. An email came out yesterday regarding the potential of a red alert. We will discuss further when **DF** joins the meeting.
2. **Minutes of last meeting: LM** those in attendance agreed the previous minutes and these will be uploaded to the website.

### Actions from previous meeting

- Actions from previous meeting are complete or have been added to the actions at the end of the minutes.

### 3. RTC Business

- **LM** the RTC focussed on O Negative, discussions included: -
  - **DF** shared the O Negative audit. 30-40% of O negative goes to O Negative. About 22% of O Negative goes in substitutions. It was felt a proportion of these could have not been O Negative. It was discussed about not automatically substituting using O Negative.
  - **LM** there is a lot of work around donors and getting the right donors in.
  - Wastage and satellite fridges.
  - Blood usage on HEMS.
  - Deliveries to hospitals
  - Stock sharing.

### 4. RTC Action Plan

**CN** will amend so it can be uploaded to website.

### 5. Audits

#### Platelet Audit

- **JJ** are you happy for me to share the information with hospitals. There will be a general report for everyone and then individual reports for the hospitals who took part.
- **LM** I am happy with that.
- **JJ** I will send that out.

#### FFP / Cryo Audit

- **CN** Martin Muir, TLM, Royal Papworth Hospital is looking over the questions. These will be taken to the ATDG on 25 June 2025 for other TLMs to review. These can be discussed further at RTC / RTT in September 2025.
- **JJ** would it be possible for this to come to the TP group too so we can give input. Martin was saying about not using INR but that is part of the national recommendation. We need to include the national indication codes.
- **LM** will that come back to the September RTC?
- **CN** yes, the plan was for Martin to put the audit together using a previous audit. This will be reviewed at TADG in June and come to RTC in September for a final review. There will be a mixture of staff groups to comment at this meeting.
- **LM** plan to bring to RTC in September to discuss final questions. RTT can then confirm.

## 6. Education Working Group

- **LM** the last meeting looked at Mums, Babies and Blood feedback which was all really positive.
- Meeting has been arranged for 17 September 2025. This will focus on the next Education Event planned for February 2026. **SD** will lead this education event.
- **LM** I wasn't planning on changing topic each year. It doesn't make sense for NBTC to make RTCs to focus on different subjects each year. **CN** some of that depends on what NBTC subjects give RTCs to choose from.
- **LM** are you happy for me to bid for Mums, Babies and Blood for future event? Everyone agreed.
- **LM** will reiterate at NBTC it is better to have a rolling programme so RTCs can repeat subjects they have already covered. We can't keep being asked to cover new topics as it is huge amounts of work.

## 7. Review Terms of Reference

- **CN** ToR are due to be reviewed. I have had no comments for changes so can just change the date for review in two years if agreed.
- **LM** does it say anything about clinicians in attendance.
- **CN** yes it does say on membership. We do have Consultant Haematologists on RTT who are usually in attendance depending on clinical commitments. Do we need to encourage new membership?
- **LM** we don't need to necessarily encourage newer members.
- **KP** can you invite Shehan and Eleanor as Deputy TADG Chairs.
- **LM** it would be nice to have another HTC Chair.
- **FS** we used to have Steve who has since retired.
- **LM** if we could email out asking if another HTC Chair could join.
- **CN** having HTC Chair representation would be good. We do struggle at times with engagement. We are not the only region who has this issue. This is why a lot of regions send out questions for a HTC Chair report prior to RTCs.
- **JH** it is difficult with HTC Chairs. They are enthusiastic but due to commitments do struggle to attend meetings.

## 8. External Meeting Venues

External meeting rooms will need to be in public sector venues rather than private sector venues.

## 9. Any Other Business

### Possible Red Alert

- **CN** shared the email sent to hospitals 21.05.2025.
- **LM** do we think this is going to happen?
- **DF** the threat comes and goes far too often so we don't know when this may become a true event. Predictions are complex.
- **FS** we have another bank holiday coming up which doesn't help. I think the next few days will tell us more.

- **LM** we suggested some ideas at RTC such as O Positive for males and HEMS issue. This is raised within the email sent yesterday. We need to support hospitals with this.
- **DF** some areas provide a lot of O Negative for helicopters.
- **DF** I will need to see what other colleagues are doing. We may need a meeting with Amanda and the Medical Director of the Trauma Centre. They will also need to liaise with higher levels so everyone is working the same.
- **LM** I can be available for any meetings if needed today / tomorrow.
- **DF** is it time to talk to NHS England again?
- **LM** we are all working differently as have different size hospitals.
- **FS** pushing O Positive for patients who can have it may become a self-preservation measure for your hospital. We don't know what is going to happen daily.
- **DF** what does point 4 mean?
- **FS** it sounds like they are preparing people for ordering for named patients. That was our interpretation. If you do need it for that patient, you need to state that so that they don't try to substitute.
- **DF** that has a huge knock-on effect for the hospital because we have to inform staff from now on that any known O Negative patients who go to theatre, that we don't have O Negative in stock. They would have to wait until stock arrives before they can start surgery / transfusion.
- **DF** with immediate effect we need to communicate with hospitals to ensure HTC Chairs / Medical Directors are aware of this communication.
- **LM** will email HTC Chairs. **JJ** will email TPs. **KP** will email TADG.
- **LM** these emails will highlight the need to convene their emergency blood stock management groups.
- **CN** I am on annual leave next week. All other admins will have access to distribution lists if any urgent communications need to go out. I can send any emails out today.

### Toolkits

- **FS** toolkits need to be reviewed. There will be a lot of changes. Input will be needed from others. These can be NBTC documents so that in future, each region can take it in turn to update. Each region would need their own page.
- **FS** this can all be done by email and catch up at the RTT in September.
- **LM** can we plan to discuss the changes at RTT in September and can feed back at NBTC beforehand.

**LM** thanked everyone for coming.

**Date and Time of Next Meeting: 2025 dates have been arranged and circulated.**

### **Actions:**

	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>1</b>	Presentation – Consent Audit	CN ask Claire Sidaway	RTC 2026
<b>2</b>	RTC Action Plan	CN to amend. Upload to website	ASAP
<b>3</b>	Audit – Platelet	JJ	Add to September RTC
<b>4</b>	Audit – Cryo / FFP	Martin Muir / TADG	Take to TADG 25.06.2025 Review at RTC / RTT September 2025
<b>5</b>	TP Simulation Meeting Feedback	TP group	January 2026 RTC
<b>6</b>	Platelet Audit	JJ	September 2025 RTC
<b>7</b>	HTC Chairs – expressions of interest for RTT	CN to send	ASAP
<b>8</b>	Email HTC Chairs, TPs, TLMs	LM, KP, JJ email CN	Completed 22.05.2025
<b>9</b>	Look at Toolkits	FS, CN and other specialties	

