


North East & Yorkshire RTC Meeting Minutes

13:00 – 16:00 02 December 2025

Attendees		
Sabira Ali	SA	Interim Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Sheffield Teaching
Bushra Amin	BA	Transfusion Practitioner, Sheffield Teaching
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
Aneesa Birader	ABi	Transfusion Practitioner, Leeds
Trinity Blackham	TB	Funded delegate, Harrogate
Jill Braithwaite	JB	Advanced Practitioner, Northern Lincolnshire & Goole
Aimee Burtenshaw	ABu	Patient Blood Management Practitioner, NHSBT
Carolyn Carveth-Marshall	CCM	Transfusion Practitioner, South Tees
Vicki Chalker	VC	Chief Scientific Officer, NHSE
Laura Condren	LC	Transfusion Technical Lead, South of Tyne Clinical Pathology Services
Rebekah Croucher	RC	Transfusion Practitioner, York & Scarborough
Katie Douglas	KD	Transfusion Practitioner, Northumbria
David Elder	DE	Deputy Theatre Manager and Blood Transfusion Coordinator, Ramsay Health
Thomas Fail	TF	Haematology speciality registrar, Co Durham & Darlington
Khaled El-Ghariani	KEG	Consultant Haematologist, Chair of HTC, Sheffield Teaching
Jay Faulkner	JF	Transfusion Practitioner, Leeds
Stephanie Ferguson	SF	Transfusion Practitioner, Leeds
Matthew Foxwell	MF	Funded delegate, Harrogate
Ren Gregory	RG	Transfusion Practitioner, Sheffield Teaching
Fiona Hickey	FH	Consultant Haematologist, Chair of HTC, Sheffield Children's
Alison Hirst	AH	Transfusion Practitioner, Airedale
Faye Hillas	FH	Transfusion Practitioner, Harrogate
Carolyn Hippy	CH	Transfusion Practitioner, Bradford
Catrina Ivel	CI	Transfusion Practitioner, York and Scarborough
Juliet James	JJ	Transfusion Practitioner, Co Durham & Darlington
Magda Jakubiak	MJ	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, North Cumbria
Marina Karakantza	MK	Consultant Haematologist, NHSBT
Sam Kershaw	SK	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Calderdale and Huddersfield
Michelle Lake	ML	Transfusion Practitioner, Calderdale & Huddersfield
Carole McBride	CMc	Transfusion Practitioner, Mid Yorkshire
Lisa McCallion	LMc	Transfusion Practitioner, Calderdale & Huddersfield
Chantal Morrell	CM	Blood Transfusion Quality Coordinator, Co Durham & Darlington
Raheela Khaled	RK	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Nuffield Leeds
Mandy O'Shea	MO	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Mid Yorks
Janet Nicholson	JN	Transfusion Practitioner, North Cumbria
Jill Parkinson	JP	Transfusion Practitioner, Bradford
Ashley Pearson	AP	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Co Durham & Darlington
Ric Procter	RP	Chair , A&E Consultant and Chair of HTC, South Tees
Nicola Redding	NR	Consultant Haematologist, Northumbria

Emma Richards	ER	Transfusion Practitioner, Doncaster & Bassetlaw
Janice Robertson	JR	Minutes , RTC Administrator, NHSBT
Martin Rowlands	MR	Deputy Chair , Consultant Anaesthetist, Sheffield Teaching
Alexandra Rosa	AR	Clinical Scientist – Haematology, Hull & East Yorkshire
Michelle Scott	MS	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Sheffield Children's
Michelle Skee	MS	Transfusion Practitioner, Northumbria
Luke Smith	LS	Funded delegate, Co Durham & Darlington
Angeline Thiongo	AT	Transfusion Practitioner, Sheffield Teaching
Vicky Waddoups	VW	Transfusion Practitioner, Rotherham
Matthew Wilson	MW	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Northumbria
Graham Woodhall	GW	Blood Sciences Operational Manager, North Cumbria

Apologies		
Aimi Baird	AB	Transfusion Practitioner, Newcastle
Tracy Booker	TB	Funded delegate, Harrogate
David Bruce	DB	Head of RCI Newcastle, NHSBT
Amanda Burns	ABu	Chief BMS, Hull & East Yorkshire
Andrew Charlton	AC	Consultant Haematologist, Newcastle and NHSBT
Robin Coupe	RC	Customer Service Manager, NHSBT
Victoria Dowson	VD	Transfusion Practitioner, North Tees
Clive Graham	CG	Consultant Microbiologist, Chair of HTC, North Cumbria
Susanna Mathew	SM	Consultant Haematologist, South Tyneside & Sunderland
Alison Muir	AM	Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Newcastle
Jordan Reed	JRe	Scientific Consultant, NHSBT
Karen Simblet	KS	QA Manager, NHSBT Newcastle
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 including Martin Rowlands (MR), Consultant Anaesthetist, Sheffield Teaching as the new Deputy Chair of the NE&Y RTC.
2.	Education Section
	<p>Transfusion transformation strategy update Presented by Vicki Chalker VC requested that her presentation was not included in the minutes.</p> <p>Updates from funded delegates SHOT conference 2025 Presented by Carolyn Carveth-Marshall</p> <p> SHOT conference 2025.pdf</p> <p>BBTS - RCI Assist programme</p>

Presented by Tracy Booker



RCI Assist.pdf

BBTS - Cold Stored Platelets

Presented by Trinity Blackham



BBTS - The use of cold stored platelets in

BBTS - Complex Cases

Presented by Luke Smith



BBTS - Complex Cases.pdf

IBMS – Lessons from the congress

Presented by Matthew Foxwell



Lessons From IBMS Congress .pdf

Review of National Guidelines / Research Papers

Presented by Marina Karakantza



Review of National Guidelines - Research



Association of Anaesthetists guidelines



List of other relevant clinical guidelines.pdf

3. Apologies for absence, minutes of last meetings and matters arising

Apologies noted.

Minutes of previous meeting, 11 June 2025, confirmed.

Action: Post confirmed minutes onto NBTC website.

3.1 Matters arising

Closed Minutes of previous meeting, 19 March 25, posted onto the NBTC website.

Closed Suggestion to address the increase in the culture of clinical staff bypassing procedures but noting that the procedure has been completed in checklists, examples to be forwarded to megan.wrightson@nhs.net

4. [Project Plan](#) reviewed

5. Update from NBTC



RTC Chairs and NBTC meeting summary set

Action: Take local private services current process for group and save / reliance on O neg. to the Private Hospital Engagement Project.

Action: Add 'Do you supply to local private hospitals / services?' to the HTC report form for the next RTC meeting.


Action: Add 'Are you aware of incidents relating to transfusions being given in non-clinical areas and to patients being transferred between clinical areas?' to the HTC report form for the next RTC meeting.




6. Reports from Hospital Transfusion Teams


<p>Airedale NHS Trust</p>  <p>Airedale.pdf</p>	<p>Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>No report submitted</p>	<p>Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p>  <p>Bradford.pdf</p>
<p>Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust</p>  <p>Calderdale & 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>Mid Yorkshire.pdf</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>No report submitted</p>
<p>North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>See South Tees</p>	<p>Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust</p>  <p>Northumbria.pdf</p>	<p>The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust</p>  <p>Rotherham.pdf</p>
<p>Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust</p>  <p>Sheffield Childrens.pdf</p>	<p>Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p>  <p>Sheffield Teaching.pdf</p>	<p>SHYPS Network (Scarborough Hull York Pathology Services)</p>  <p>SHYPS.pdf</p>
<p>South of Tyne Pathology (Inc Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trusts)</p>  <p>South of Tyne.pdf</p>	<p>Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p>  <p>Tees.pdf</p>	<p>York & Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>No report submitted</p>

Key points from reports:

- Finance remains an issue.
- Concerns about TP redeployment to ward based clinical work.
- Lack of time allocated for transfusion training.
- Lack of HTC specialty representation.
- Airedale – Anaesthetic dept taking part in the PLAN – TXAIMS in response to IBI report.
- Airedale - Seeing a trend of clinical incidents, particularly on the assessment unit. On-going work to assess training requirements, particularly regarding MH situations.
- Bradford - SHOT report where a standard giving set was used to transfuse RBC instead of a transfusion giving set due to a change in the packaging of Fresenius blood administration sets. Fresenius was contacted about the seriousness of the safety and a request to change back to the original labelling. Fresenius responded within 24 hrs with notes of the changes to be made.
Action: Provide summary of event to share with the group.
- Calderdale & Huddersfield - Evidence of clinical staff scanning wristbands when NOT attached to patient. Discovered by BloodTrack alert for wristband/compatibility label mismatch. Awaiting results of investigation.
- Co. Durham & Darlington
 - Several incidents with BadgerNet. Escalated the 'SHOT IT problem statement' to maternity division via TTC. Aware of work currently undergoing investigating potential transfer of neonatal results. NBTC raised this with SHOT who advised they are only highlighting this as an issue and will not be involved in changing the system.
 - Increased number of WBIT incidents. Trends showing these are in pressured areas. Funding has been obtained for BloodTrack, and the Trust will be moving into a pilot stage in January, which will hopefully address the situation.
 - Local surgical teams are resistant to the Inclusion of TXA on surgical checklist. The Trust feels that this should be National.
- **Action:** Respond to CDDFT HTC chair in response to comment on the report form '*Surgical teams feel any changes to the WHO surgical checklist must be nationally driven rather than local deviations*' advising to wait for publication of the new NICE Guidance - Tranexamic acid (update), in development, Reference number:GID-NG1044, expected publication date: 26 February 2026
- **Action:** Raise '*Surgical teams feel any changes to the WHO surgical checklist must be nationally driven rather than local deviations*' at RTC chairs meeting
- Doncaster & Bassetlaw – Issues with obtaining funding for licences for final phase of electronic tracking. MD office now involved to use capital funding.
 - Working with ED, theatre and obstetrics with plans for MHP simulations. Focussed training for preceptorship ED nurses in addition to their general transfusion training currently included in the preceptorship programme.
- Harrogate - Single unit transfusion requests only to be accepted (excluding Cancer Centre, during major haemorrhage or with approval by a consultant Haematologist). Transfusion laboratory staff will be supported and encouraged to challenge transfusion requests for >1 units, clinical staff encouraged to repeat the patients Haemoglobin and clinically assess the patient before requesting further units.
Action: Request feedback on this initiative from laboratory manager for the next RTC meeting.
- Leeds
 - Mitigating issues involved in lone working at night, as a limited number of staff are available. This has been included in the Risk Register as 'potential to be unable to run two sites' which would have a major impact on hospital services and patient care. Business plan submitted for a review of staffing, as currently relying on agency staff who do not have transfusion experience.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unable to progress with end-to-end transfusion systems as equipment is now beginning to fail and software not compatible with new Trust platform. • North Cumbria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MHRA inspection (first in 17 years) – CIC site. <p>Deficiencies raised around staffing and resources which has highlighted the requirements of blood transfusion. Inspector requested a meeting with the chief executive which was useful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Challenges with training of porters who are not Trust employees. • Northumbria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress with reducing avoidable transfusions through education and use of iron replacement for anaemic patients. - A framework for recording outcomes for recipients of blood components to be established. Implementation of vein-to-vein tracking systems will assist on this project. - Increase of Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP) wastage associated with Major Haemorrhage Protocols activations, possibly due to MHP being called too early. In discussion with a high user Trust to take thawed unit and prevent wastage. • Rotherham - Request for clarity regarding the use of Cladribine in treatment of patients for MS, in respect to the provision of irradiated blood components. Action: Discuss with Patient Blood Management Consultants team and feed back to the group.
7.	Budget
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NE&Y RTC have funded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 delegates to attend BBTS. • 1 delegate to attend SHOT. • 1 delegate to attend IBMS. • Supported in person meeting for NE&Y TP group. • Supported in person meetings for NBCUG and BUG. • 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 Trust 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.
8.	Haemostasis and Thrombosis Matters
	No update
9.	NHSBT Updates
9.1	<p>BSMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going forward BSMS will be looking at how we standardise reporting of data in terms of benchmarking and our individual variation between Trusts on specific outputs i.e. O neg WAPI, FFP wastage and what measures we can look at individually for variance, positive variance of excellence The aim is to look at those that have performed well, ask how they achieved this, and look at updating policies that can be shared across the region.
9.2	<p>PBM including update on RTC events and NCA</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>PBM update .pdf</p> </div> <p>Action: Request Trust reports from NCA on data collected on ‘Where does blood go?’</p>

10.	Education and Training
10.1	<p>NBTC study day Neonatal and paediatric transfusion 13:00 – 16:00 Wednesday 22 October 2025 425 attended (lower than expected attendance possibly due to the clash with the SHOT Transfusion Safety Standards: From Paper to Practice webinar) Delegates evaluated the event at 4.73 out of 5 and 50% of delegates would change an aspect of practice as a result of the conference.</p>
10.2	<p>Non-Medical Authorisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming dates: 03 December 2025 • Positive feedback received for 2025 events. • Working group meeting scheduled for 10 November 25. 2026 course dates will be discussed and released to the group.
10.3	<p>National Transfusion Practitioner Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers needed to facilitate TP2026 – if interested please contact aimi.baird@nhs.net or victoria.waddoups@nhs.net
10.4	<p>Scientific and Clinical Training</p>  <p>Scientific and Clinical Training update.pdf</p>
11.	Regional Surveys
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platelet stock sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Platelet stock sharing- RTC Nov 24.i • TXA use summary <ul style="list-style-type: none">  TXA use summary- June 25.pdf
12.	Reports from RTC groups
12.1	<p>Transfusion Practitioners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person meeting in Darlington on 04 November 25 Good engagement within the group and positive feedback for the meeting. Discussions around QS138 audit tool, the majority of Trusts in the region are registered, but few are entering data. The group has requested a live demonstration of the tool at the next meeting. Push back regarding the value of the data which has been fed back to NTPN.
12.2	<p>Centre Users Groups</p> <p>Barnsley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressions of interest requested for chair / co-chair of the group. <p>Newcastle – Face to face meeting held 15 September 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for delivery with a rare blood letter – NUTH • Major Haemorrhage experience as a newly qualified BMS – SOT • Anti-CD36 in the RCI lab – NHSBT

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FutureNHS account now set up for the Newcastle group to support collaboration within the region. • Discussion of staffing issues and high numbers of trainees in the region. Promotion of Transfusion Training Hub and supportive webinars which could be used as additional training tools for hospital Transfusion teams. • Action for all hospitals to review contingency plans and ensure that O D neg RBCs are not the sole backup. Need to have robust plans to support long term LIMS downtime.
12.3	<p>NBTC Laboratory Managers Group</p> <p>Teams meeting 18 November 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly webinars for TLMs have been extended throughout 2026. Topics covered so far have been very well received. There will be a repeat session of the MHRA BCR discussion in Feb/March.
12.4	<p>National Transfusion Practitioner Network</p> <p>No update.</p>
12.5	<p>Trauma Network update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work ongoing on the North of England mass casualty major incident response. Discussions as to relevance to transfusion laboratories in terms of how do supply large volume of blood products in the event of mass casualty events and if that also cover stock sharing. There was a request from the London groups as to whether there are formal agreements between MTC specifically for sharing of stock in the event of a mass casualty event, in the North it is an informal agreement.
12.6	<p>Post Discharge Advice Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is ongoing and will now be incorporated into the Patient Engagement Working Group
12.7	<p>Cell salvage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group to be set up in 2026.
12.8	<p>Patient Engagement Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group is aiming to increase meaningful patient engagement and ensure patient feedback is directly integrated into RTC activities. The NE&Y RTC representative is a member of the group and will be inputting on patient information leaflets and a questionnaire for patients on chronic transfusion programmes. The group are also looking to hold an education event for patients in April/May 26. Terms of reference agreed. <p> Patient Engagement Working Group ToR v</p>
13.	A.O.B.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AR shared her Trusts experiences with BudgetNet. Following many conversations and patient safety meetings Hull & East Yorkshire have escalated to high risk in the risk register of the hospital. Audits to be held twice per year, so far, the audits have shown transcription errors. A system of a second checker and check box alerting has been introduced. A risk assessment has been performed staff are requested to report any non-compliances on the reporting system. • JR will be retiring in February 2026. RP thanked her on behalf of the group for her help over the years. JR advised that it had been a pleasure working with the group. • RP wished the group a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

14.	Date of next meetings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be confirmed.

RTC – Action list

Item No	Action	By Whom
3	Post confirmed minutes of previous meeting, 11 June 2025, onto NBTC website.	JR
5	Take local private services current process for group and save / reliance on O neg. to the Private Hospital Engagement Project.	MB
5	Add ' <i>Do you supply to local private hospitals / services?</i> ' to the HTC report form for the next RTC meeting.	JR
5	Add ' <i>Are you aware of incidents relating to transfusions being given in non-clinical areas and to patients being transferred between clinical areas?</i> ' to the HTC report form for the next RTC meeting.	JR
6	Provide summary of Bradford event reported to SHOT due to a change in the packaging of Fresenius blood administration sets to share with the group.	JP
6	Respond to CDDFT HTC chair in response to comment on the report form 'Surgical teams feel any changes to the WHO surgical checklist must be nationally driven rather than local deviations' advising to wait for publication of the new NICE Guidance - Tranexamic acid (update), in development, Reference number:GID-NG1044, expected publication date: 26 February 2026	RP
6	Raise ' <i>Surgical teams feel any changes to the WHO surgical checklist must be nationally driven rather than local deviations</i> ' at RTC chairs meeting	RP
6	Request feedback on the Harrogate initiative for single unit transfusion requests only to be accepted (excluding Cancer Centre, during major haemorrhage or with approval by a consultant Haematologist) from laboratory manager for the next RTC meeting, including how they have evidenced the outcomes / any evidence of improvement / what is QS138 performance	FH
6	Clarify the use of Cladribine in treatment of patients for MS, in respect to the provision of irradiated blood components with Patient Blood Management Consultants team and feed back to the group.	MK
9.2	Request Trust reports from NCA on data collected on 'Where does blood go?'	ABu