National Blood Transfusion Committee

Minutes of the
National Transfusion Laboratory Managers
Advisory Group Meeting

Tuesday 10th June 2025
11:00hrs – 12:30hrs
via MS Teams

Present (19)		
Kerry Dowling	KD	Deputy Chair, TLM, Southampton
Jane Murphy	JM	Administrator
Pete Baker	PB	North West Region
Anna Capps-Jenner	ACJ	London Region (private labs)
Anna Dobson	AD	Midlands (West) Region
Alison Muir	AM	North East and Yorkshire Region
Katherine Philpott	KP	East of England Region
Zoe Sammut	ZS	South East Region
Brian Taylor	BT	North East and Yorkshire Region
Jey Visuvanathan	JV	London Region
Karen Ward	KW	North East and Yorkshire Region
Helen Wilkinson	HW	Midlands (East) Region
Tim Wreford-Bush	TWB	South West Region
Mike Brewer	MB	MOD Defence Pathology
Ruth Evans	RE	Scientific and Clinical Training Organisation and Workforce Development, NHSBT
Matt Hazel	MH	RCI, NHSBT
Chris Philips	CP	Head of Hospital Customer Service, NHSBT
Chris Robbie	CR	MHRA Representative
Darryn Boardman	DB	Senior Strategic Category Manager, NHS England
Shabana Tufail	ST	NHSBT

Apologies (2)		
Julie Staves	JS	Chair and South East region
Wisdom Musabaike	WM	Assistant Director, RCI, NHSBT

Minutes		
14.25	**Welcome & Apologies**	**Actions**
	KD welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were given from those listed above prior to the meeting.	
15.25	**NHS England**	
	Darren Boardman, Category Lead for Plasma for Medicines Programme at NHS England joined today's meeting to introduce himself to the group and explain the role his team plays in providing compliant access and managing supplies of Human Albumin Solution for the NHS. DB highlighted how the value of liaising directly with specific regional leads would vastly improve communication cascade and help in supporting local issues in regions where they arise. DB asked the group if they would be happy to share their contact details. The group confirmed they are happy to share contact details for their region. **Action: DB to email group regarding providing a contact for their region.** DB advised he is happy to attend regional or national meetings to discuss anything Albumin related and can offer both NHSE and supplier support to local teams. **Action: DB to share Trust and regional Octalbin uptake model shown at meeting. Also, to share a copy of the "Albumin to Pharmacy" proposal paper for comment before official submission.**	**DB** **DB**
16.25	**Minutes from last meeting, 16th April 2025**	
	Reviewed and accepted as a true and accurate record. Action log reviewed / updated.	
17.25	**Webinars / Drop-in Sessions**	
	KD / TWB provided an update. <u>Held 2 sessions:</u> • April 24th: BCR Drop-in Session • May 7th: Change Control & Validation Webinar Both sessions were very well received with attendance much higher than expected. Very positive feedback received <u>Next planned sessions</u>: • June 12th; Staffing Drop-in Session. Jen Davies supporting. • July 7th; O Neg Webinar. Kath Philpott supporting. • Sep 18th; Capacity Planning Webinar. Chris Robbie supporting. This topic came from feedback received from attendees. If anyone has any ideas / topics for future sessions, please let the group know.	
18.25	**Education**	
	Ruth Evans provided an update. • Increased number of places for 2025/26 courses. Encourage people to book sooner rather than later. • Masters; new visa rules for international students.	

	If there is anything that as a group think is missing from an education perspective, please let RE know.	
19.25	**MHRA**	
	Chris Robbie confirmed no specific update. Reporting platform has changed. User guide to be updated and will provide more in-depth information.	
20.25	**NHSBT**	
	<u>Customer Services Update</u> Chris Phillips provided the following update: • OBOS: Option to select max life is going to be removed on 22nd June 2025. • Delivery Schedule: Current schedule to be sent out. This follows the contract issued in April / May. No changes, it's just so everyone has the up-to-date version. Please share with all laboratory staff. • RCI Hard Copy Reporting: This has now been switched off. No problems have been reported so far. • Patient Genotyping Programme: Extended to January 2026. Lengthy period for hospitals to take full advantage to submit samples and get the genotyping done. • Group O Position: Any issues, please let Customer Services Team know. • Donor Sessions in Hospitals: Guidance to be issued on venue selection and specification. Will be included in The Update • Amber Alert: Communications to be issued this week advising the need to continue with restrictions on Group O and highlighting our thanks to all hospitals for their continued support. **<u>RCI Update</u>** Matt Hazel provided an update on behalf of Wisdom Musabaike. • UKAS Extension to Scope - New schedule published which now included Grifols. - BioRad remains as still used within laboratories. • RCI Assist - Now live. - Access within Hospital Laboratories. - Encourage staff to use when support is needed. • Cessation of paper reports - Turned off 2nd June 2025. No reported problems. • Voice recording - Due to come online in August 2025. Calls will be voice recorded to Colindale RCI which will hopefully be a useful future tool. • Colindale Refurbishment - Currently ongoing. No finish date has been set. - There will be a link to the tool on Spice.	

21.25	**Engagement with Other Bodies**	
	T2024 / Transfusion • No new update. Sessions being held for RTC Chairs and deputies about what will be coming in the future. **Guidance on Non-binary Patients** • No update. **Guidance of Reporting Blood Groups on Patients Who Are Going for Organ Donation** • Guidance document came out from SHOT awhile ago. No further work. **Culture Survey** • Please check and see that people have done their local culture checks and encourage if these haven't been done. This is one of the recommendations from the culture survey.	
22.25	**Regional Updates**	
	North West (Pete Baker) • RTC Meeting held 28th April 2025. This was a business meeting, no real topics. • Nothing else to report. **Private Labs** (Anna Capps-Jenner) • Nothing to report. **Midlands** (Anna Dobson) • Nothing to report. **North East & Yorkshire** (Brian Taylor / Alison Muir) • Nothing to report from the Yorkshire region. • BT has asked for a replacement for this group and there are a couple of interested TLMs which BT has forwarded onto JS. This will be discussed further at the User Group Meeting next week. **London** (Jey Visuvanathan) • Nothing to report. **South East** (Zoe Sammut) • TADG Meeting at the end of the month. • Struggling with workforce at the moment, really short staffed. **South West** (Tim Wreford-Bush) • Currently looking at joint guidance for electronic issues and significant antibodies i.e. anti D. **East of England** (Katherine Philpott) • User Group Meeting at the end of the month. • RTC Meeting held a few weeks ago which was a whole day on blood flow / shortage. Good attendance from TLMs and TPs. • Highlighted issue with band 5 colleagues from overseas who aren't meeting the pay threshold for retaining / extending their visa. **Action: KD / JS to raise with Cheng Hok issue regarding band 5 colleagues from overseas who aren't meeting the pay threshold for retaining / extending their visa.**	**KD / JS**

23.25	**MOD Pathology**	
	Mike Brewer has replaced Major Dan Willis and provided the group with the following update: • Collaborating with NATO Partners on agreed acceptance for blood usage. • Work ongoing for sovereign freeze-dried plasma production. • On the receiving end of multiple audits from numerous agencies (Government Internal Audit, Healthcare Assurance Framework and imminent MHRA inspection). • Working with customers and NHSBT on reductions for certain blood groups due to NHSBT Alert.	
24.25	**AOB**	
	Brain Taylor Brain is retiring at the end of July, so this is his last meeting. KD on behalf of JS and the group wanted to say a massive thank you to BT for all his input, knowledge and skills over the years. Also, to wish him a very happy retirement. **Air Ambulance Blood & Pre Sample Transfusion** TWB asked if it is possible for the group to consider a mechanism where air ambulance have a HEMS pack that could be used by all Trusts in their ED department to enable a pre transfusion sample to be taken to prevent mixed field reactions and hence reduce the use of O RBC. Possibly managed by NHSBT to ensure no duplicates. It would require details that could be entered onto the PAS and LIMS system. **Action: KD/JS to contact Fatts Chowdhury to see if anything can be done regarding having HEMS packs used by the Air Ambulance.**	**KD/JS**
	Clinical Scientists in Transfusion MH asked if there is going to be some development of roles at the end of training for STP trainees. KD happy to link with MH from a Transfusion Transformation Staffing Working Group. **Action: Anyone interested in supporting MH in a working group to look at developing the STP trainee's role at the end of training, please email MH directly.**	**ALL**
	Harmonisation of Practice PB asked the group on behalf of the Cheshire and Mersey Pathology Network (CMPN): 1) What was the groups thoughts on performing a full forward/reverse blood group compared to a confirmatory ABD group on subsequent samples with a suitable risk assessment? The group had no fixed recommendation as various labs within the group performed groups using both procedures. 2) Does the group block electronic issue if there is a DAT positive although the antibody screen is negative? Again, there was not specific consensus of opinion as different labs allow or disallowed electronic issue.	
25.25	**Dates of Next Meetings**	
	• Thursday 11th September, 10am – 3:30pm, face to face @ NHSBT Birmingham New Street. • Tuesday 18th November, 11am – 12:30pm via MS Teams.	