Minutes of the
National Transfusion Laboratory Managers (NTLM)
Advisory Group Meeting

Tuesday 27th January 2026
11:00hrs – 12:30hrs
MS Teams

Present (20)		
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 Region (West)
Alison Muir	AM	North East and Yorkshire Region
Katherine Philpott	KP	East of England Region
Patricia Richards	PR	London Region
Michelle Scott	MS	North East and Yorkshire Region
Zoe Sammut	ZS	South East Region
Jey Visuvanathan	JV	London Region
Helen Wilkinson	HW	Midlands Region
Tim Wreford-Bush	TWB	South West Region
Mike Brewer	MB	MOD Defence Pathology
Heather Clarke	HC	RCI, NHSBT
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
Chris Robbie	CR	Senior Haemovigilance Specialist, MHRA
Nikki Swarbrick	NS	Laboratory Incident Specialist, SHOT

Apologies (3)		
Sam Kershaw	SK	North East and Yorkshire Region
Julie Staves	JS	Chair and South East region
Vicky Tuckley	VT	Laboratory Incident Specialist, SHOT

Minutes		
01.26	**Welcome & Apologies**	**Actions**
	KD welcomed all to the meeting. KD chaired the meeting in absence of JS Apologies were given from those listed above prior to the meeting.	
02.26	**Minutes from last meeting, 18th November 2025**	
	No amendments raised. Accepted as a true and accurate record. Action log reviewed / updated.	
03.26	**NBTC**	
	KD attended the recent NBTC Executive Working Group Meeting and gave the following feedback: • Discussion centred on Transfusion Transformation, quality improvement, and safe transfusion workstreams. • Concerns raised about NBTC visibility and recognition. • NBTC celebrate their 25th anniversary this year. • Education Working Group to take over responsibility of the website that was produced by NHSBT. • Patient Engagement / Working Group will be looking at how we can engage with patients and work to strengthen partnerships.	
04.26	**Regional Feedback**	
	<u>South West Region</u> Recent meeting held. TWB provided feedback on the Blood Quality Programme (B-QM), for which his laboratory has recently registered. Further details on the programme are available in the document below.  Leaflet - Blood quality B-QM progra <u>East of England Region</u> KP highlighted issues raised from recent meeting. • Recent letter received from Haemonetics advising blood track kiosks are at end of maintenance service contracts by 30th November 2026 was not very well received. • One of the groups in the region has old systems, Telepath and Apex systems which has been taken over by Dedalus who have served notice to advise their LIMS system is no longer going to be supported by some point next year. Very concerned as a LIMS replacement cannot be turnaround quickly.	

	Several regions highlighted same concern. KD suggested escalating to the NBTC as Cheng Hok-Toh has direct links with NHS England. However, to do this will need more information of the actual problem including timeline. **Action: Anyone affected by the withdrawal of the Dedalus system, to send details including timeline to KD for escalation to NBTC.** **Action: KD to raise at the forthcoming Haemonetics Key Opinion Leaders (KOL) Meeting regarding the ongoing upgrade / change of equipment.**	**ALL / KD** **KD**
05.26	**IBI**	
	Workforce Planning (KD) KD advised progressing on: • Extending workforce capacity planning to include TPs and clinical leadership. • Establishing escalation pathways when capacity plans are not met. SHOT (NS) SHOT safety standards are out which people are starting to work on. Survey recently closed, have not had as good a response as hoped which think is due to size of survey. NS to look at data.	
06.26	**Webinars 2026**	
	First webinar of 2026 was held 21st January on "Importance of the Transfusion Laboratory Managers Groups & the NBTC". 57 delegates attended. Poll results: • 50% prefer face-to-face meetings. • Support for senior BMS deputies attending when TLMs unavailable. • Majority felt meetings are a valuable use of time. KD suggested NTLM Group, sends a communication highlighting the importance of the TLM Groups along with the benefits of attending webinars / regional meetings. Suggest if TLMs are unable to attend to start sending a deputy. CP to discuss with his team and offered support. Also, CR advised that he and MD (MHRA) are happy to attend regional user group meetings. **Action: KD / CP to link up and provide guidance on increasing engagement and deputy attendance at meetings.** Reviewed webinar programme for 2026. **Action: JM to ensure MD/CR are included in future distribution list when advertising webinars.**	**KD / CP** **JM**
07.26	**Education and Training**	
	Ruth Evans provided update. • MSc in Applied Transfusion and Transplantation Webinar being held 24th February 2026 via Zoom for anyone interested in the Masters course starting in September 2026. • Masters: the Management of Clinical Services module has been well received as a freestanding CPD.	

	• NHSE funded courses; increased funding received for this year. Still places available on several courses for this year. Bookings start on 1st April for coming year. There is already a waiting list so people will get notified as soon as the booking is open. Looking at a new system to support advanced bookings, a bid for additional funding for next year has been submitted to NHSE.	
08.26	**MHRA**	

	Chris Robbie provided update.
	
	• Annual summary reports delayed slightly but expected early February.
	• Hemovigilance fees invoices to be issued shortly.
	• Concern raised about declining quality of incident investigation reporting:
	  ○ Inadequate root cause analysis.
	  ○ Incomplete corrective actions.
	  ○ Reports often require resubmission.
	  ○ No set way of doing the reporting as long as it covers what the requirements are and the good practise guide, which is to identify the root cause and put in corrective measures.
	  ○ Suggested including some hints and tips in the BCR Webinar being held in March 2026.	

09.26	**SHOT**	
	Update provided by Nikki Swarbrick. • Shared Care Form; email coming out next week with next steps for using the form. • Major Haemorrhage Simulation Toolkit near completion. • Concessionary Release Toolkit expected early March.	
10.26	**NHSBT**	
	<u>Customer Services Update</u> Chris Phillips provided the following update: • Exploring MESH (Message Exchange for Social Care and Health) protocol for secure data exchange. • **Action: Group to reach out to IT colleagues within their Trusts and asking for feedback. Any feedback to be sent to CP.** • Blood Transport Boxes: Tender evaluation for replacement boxes, looking for hospitals point of view on; weight of the boxes, ease of opening along with any other considerations you wish NHSBT to be mindful of. • **Action: Please let CP know of any considerations with regards to boxes.** • Monthly Update: Work is underway to review the effectiveness of the monthly update. A survey and user discussions will be used to assess whether it is being read and whether the content is useful. This group may be asked to help shape questions and feedback. Further updates will be shared as the work progresses.	**ALL** **ALL**

	• Genotyping for Haemoglobinopathy Patients: Continuing promotion free of charge until end of March. Currently had over 11,000 patients tested. Likely to be a charge for this service after this date. **RCI Update** Wisdom Musabaike gave an update. • Some labs experiencing capacity challenges; recruitment and training ongoing. • RCI Assist available and encouraged for use. • Colindale refurbishment nearing completion with minimal disruption expected. • Successful pilot of call recording at Colindale; plans to expand. • UKAS assessment planned for March. **E-requesting of NHSBT Referrals** Update given by Heather Clarke. Current implementation position for fetal RHD: • 82 hospitals with functionality enabled, 43 of these are now live referrers and a further 32 in progress. • Working with 4 suppliers; 3 LIMS (Clinisys, Dedalus and Haemonetics) and 1 EPR (EPIC). Other suppliers contacts regarding development of functionality. • Progressing with creating functionality for all RCI and H&I requests. • Aim to eventually roll out to all NHSBT Pathology Services. Next steps and how you can help: • Pilot with Kings Mill and Royal Derby, Q1 26-27 • Developing and resourcing an implementation plan, Q1 26-27 • Approach and start onboarding other hospitals, Q3 26-27 • Advocate your LIMS suppliers we are not currently working with to engage with us to progress development of the interconnectivity. • Establish if you have Labnostics licences / connections available in your transfusion labs. • Group asked to complete short e-requesting survey during the meeting. **Professional Development Framework for TPs** On behalf of Jen Rock, HC thanked all the TLMs who have already provided feedback and requested if as many TLMs as possible could please review and respond.	
11.26	**AOB**	
	Albumin Storage AD asked if there was any more information about the draft paper that came out in June 2025. **Action: KD to follow up draft paper on storage of albumin to pharmacy with Darryn Boardman.** Phenotyping for Dara Patients Report in Bloodlines last month by Tom Bullock. KP asked groups views.	**KD**

	Action: WM to discuss phenotyping for Dara Patients with Tom Bullock and feedback to the group. <u>Audit into RCI's processing of anti-CD38 samples</u> Alex Hogan, Consultant Clinical Scientist Trainee (HSTT) RCI Newcastle, NHST requested the report and summary of the audit into RCI's processing of anti-CD38 samples be embedded into the minutes. These provide updated information regarding anti-CD38 therapy, and its load on transfusion services. The key points of interest from a NTLM perspective are that the number of anti-CD38 cases referred to NHSBT has doubled since 2019, and that the rate of immunisation against red cell antigens remains low.  AUD5154 Anti-CD38 FINAL 19Nov25.pdf  AUD5154 Anti-CD38 SUMMARY 16Sep25.	
12.26	**Date of Next Meeting**	
	Wednesday 26th April 2026, 11am – 12:30pm via MS Teams.	