Blood products

Blood Transfusion Guideline

Purpose

This guideline provides general advice about blood products. Blood products are distinct from blood components and as such are not in scope for the NHS Lothian Blood Transfusion Policy and associated procedures.

Blood products

The NHS Lothian Blood Transfusion Policy and associated procedures are in place to enable staff to use blood COMPONENTS correctly. Blood components are the therapeutic constituents of human blood (red cells, white cells, platelets, plasma and cryoprecipitate).

In contrast, blood PRODUCTS are therapeutic products manufactured from human whole blood or plasma donations (e.g. albumin, anti-D, immunoglobulins).

Most blood products are stored in, and issued from, pharmacy (including intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIgG), albumin, hepatitis B immunoglobulin, tetanus immunoglobulin and varicella-zoster immunoglobulin).

The transfusion laboratories store and issue some blood products including anti-D and prothrombin complex concentrate (e.g. Beriplex). Advice can be obtained from the duty haematologist regarding site specific availability and issue arrangements for these products.

Single coagulation factor concentrates and recombinant Factor VIIa can only be given after authorisation by the duty haematologist.

Guidance regarding the use of anti-D, routine antenatal anti-D prophylaxis (RAADP) and potentially sensitising events during pregnancy and at birth can be found in the NHS Lothian Anti-D Policy [NHS Lothian Intranet].

Clinical guidelines for immunoglobulin use (NHS Scotland) can be obtained from https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clinical-guidelines-for-immunoglobulin-use-second-edition-update

IVIgG request forms can be obtained from pharmacy.

Suspected adverse reactions to blood products should be reported through the Yellow Card Scheme (found at back of the British National Formulary (BNF)). Such reactions should also be discussed with a member of the hospital transfusion team as some may also be reportable to the Serious Hazards of Transfusion. The reaction should also be reported on Datix (choose ‘transfusion’ from drop-down menu).

The product ‘insert’ accompanying each blood product must be followed regarding the correct storage, dosage, reconstitution and administration of that product.

Blood products may only be ordered by registered medical, nursing or midwifery staff who have the appropriate knowledge to make this decision.

Blood products (see top of page for definition) should be prescribed in the patient’s medication administration chart (they should not be prescribed in the patient’s transfusion record which is only to be used for blood components).