

Purpose of this procedure:

This procedure:

- Describes the blood transfusion service in NHS Lothian
- Informs staff in NHS Lothian where they can obtain information and advice about blood transfusion
- Describes where information regarding infection control relevant to blood transfusion can be accessed

The Procedure:

Description of Service

Blood components are supplied by the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS). SNBTS is responsible for the recruitment of blood donors, the collection and processing of whole blood and the testing, labelling and distribution of blood components to hospital transfusion laboratories.

The hospital transfusion laboratory is responsible for the storage and inventory management of blood components, pre-transfusion testing of patient samples and issue of compatible blood components to named patients.

There are three hospital transfusion laboratories (HTL) that provide blood transfusion services for the whole of NHS Lothian:

- the SNBTS HTL located in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh: telephone ext 27501/2
- the NHS Lothian HTL located in the Western General Hospital: telephone ext 31912
- the NHS Lothian HTL located in St John's Hospital, Livingston: telephone ext 53354

The HTLs are located in the hospital laboratory departments and their role includes:

- Pre-transfusion testing, compatibility testing, antenatal and postnatal testing (site dependent)
- Responsibility for the storage and inventory management of blood and blood components for patients in NHS Lothian

Clinical and laboratory transfusion practice is overseen by the NHS Lothian Transfusion Committee. The Lothian Transfusion Committee is a multi-disciplinary group, with representatives of blood user specialties, whose existence is mandated by the Scottish Executive. This committee has an important role in transfusion governance, and in improving transfusion practice. It reports to the Chief Executive via the NHS Lothian Acute Clinical Management Group. The Acute Clinical Management Group feeds into the NHS Lothian Healthcare Governance Committee.

Information and advice about transfusion

The Hospital Transfusion Team (HTT) comprises subject matter experts from clinical and laboratory transfusion backgrounds. Transfusion advice relating to technical matters is available from Biomedical Science (BMS) staff in the hospital transfusion laboratories while clinical advice can be obtained from a duty haematologist (who can be contacted via switchboard) or one of the SNBTS transfusion practitioners based in NHS Lothian. Contact details are below.

Additional information is available in the Handbook of Transfusion Medicine (5th edition, 2013 UK Blood Services) available at www.transfusinguidelines.org.uk

Useful contact numbers

Name	Contact
Hospital Transfusion Laboratory RIE & RHCYP	Ext 27501/2
Hospital Transfusion Laboratory WGH	Ext 31912
Hospital Transfusion Laboratory SJH	Ext 53354
Duty haematologist	Via switchboard (24 hours a day, 7 days per week)
Transfusion Practitioner RIE & RHCYP	Mobile contact via switchboard
Transfusion Practitioner WGH and SJH	Mobile contact via switchboard

Infection control

All staff involved in the handling and administration of blood components must be familiar with and adhere to the [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual \(NIPCM\)](#). This can be accessed via the NHS Lothian intranet, particularly:

- Management of Blood and Body Fluid Spillages (Appendix 9, NIPCM)
- How to Hand Wash (see also associated hand hygiene resources found in Leaflets, Posters and Forms (Appendix 1, NIPCM)

Additional information can be obtained from the duty infection control nurse 7 days a week 08.30 to 16.00 (not including 25th December and 1st January) or, outwith these times, the duty microbiologist via the hospital switchboard.

Associated materials/references:

[NHS Lothian Blood Transfusion Policy](#)

[NHS Lothian Blood Transfusion Procedures](#)

[NHS Lothian Blood Transfusion Guidelines](#)