

Purpose of this procedure:

This procedure describes the mandatory practical competency assessment arrangements that must be undertaken by any staff member who is involved in collecting blood components from a transfusion laboratory or a satellite blood fridge.

The Procedure:

Face to face practical competency assessment is required for all those who are going to be involved in collecting blood components from a transfusion laboratory* or a satellite blood fridge.

This formal assessment of competency is required **in addition to** the mandatory theory training relating to blood collection described in '[Transfusion Education and Training](#)' and is a legal requirement under the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations (2005).

The assessment must be carried out by an assessor who has been trained in the (previous) Trainer & Assessor Accreditation Programme (TAAP) or (current) Blood Component Collection Assessor Programme (BCCAP).

*RIE portering staff who are involved in collecting blood components from the transfusion laboratory on that site are not required to check patient/component pack identification details upon uplift (the porter collects, transports and delivers the transit box/bag labelled for the requested clinical area). For this reason, the RIE porters are not required to undertake blood collection competency assessment. The RIE porters involved in collecting blood components are, however, still required to complete the mandatory theory training relating to blood collection described in '[Transfusion Education and Training](#)'.

The collector

A successful practical competency assessment is generally only required once for staff (see below** for exceptions).

Assessment of the blood collector's knowledge (as undertaken every two years via completion of the mandatory *LBT Safe transfusion practice* (or, depending on role, *LBT Collection pathway*) satisfies the requirement for ongoing demonstration of competency thereafter.

**The exception to this is when a staff member has not collected blood for a period of a year or more following their assessment, or if the individual has been involved in a near miss or adverse event relating to blood collection. The collection competency assessment will require revalidation prior to the individual being permitted to be involved in the blood collection procedure in these circumstances. This is in line with the BSQR 2005 and follows the MHRA Blood Consultative Committee guidance 2008 which states that practice must be “commensurate with the level of risk associated with it”.

Individuals who are not employees of NHS Lothian are not permitted to collect blood. No students are permitted to collect blood unsupervised whilst on clinical placement (this remains the case even if a student is involved in blood collection (following successful competency assessment) as an employee of NHS Lothian in another role). A student must be supervised by a staff member who has been formally assessed as competent to collect blood.

The assessor

If an assessor has not undertaken any assessments in a period of one year, or is involved in a near miss or adverse event associated with blood collection, BCCAP training will require to be repeated.

Advice

Advice regarding blood collection competency assessment can be obtained from your charge nurse/midwife, clinical lead or local transfusion practitioner.

Associated materials/references:

[NHS Lothian Satellite Blood Fridge Policy](#)

[NHS Lothian Satellite Blood Fridge Procedure](#)

[NHS Lothian Blood Transfusion Policy](#)