

## Purpose

Blood components are transfused in some of the community hospitals in NHS Lothian. The [NHS Lothian Blood Transfusion Policy](#) and associated [procedures](#) apply to transfusions taking place in these settings. However, some procedures may vary due to the facilities available in community settings. The purpose of this guidance is to describe the aspects of transfusion practice which may be different.

## Blood transfusion in NHS Lothian community hospital settings

All staff involved in the transfusion process must have documented evidence of having appropriate and current (at least within last two years) Learnbloodtransfusion *Safe transfusion practice* training for their role.

**In the event of a major haemorrhage occurring on any non-acute NHS Lothian site, the patient should be transferred as an emergency to an Emergency Department**

The following table outlines where procedures may vary from the acute hospitals. Unless otherwise stated, [NHS Lothian Blood Transfusion Procedures](#) must be followed. The table indicates which procedure should be referred to.

Aspect of transfusion practice	Link to main procedure / guideline	Procedure details
Description of service	<a href="#">Description of service, information and advice, infection control</a>	All blood components for transfusion in community hospitals are supplied by the SEBTS transfusion laboratory at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary*. This laboratory must be contacted for information and advice (ext 27501/2).  *The one exception is the Edinburgh Cancer Centre at East Lothian Community Hospital (ECC@ELCH). Please see ECC@ELCH SOP ( <i>sign off awaited</i> ). Blood components for this service are supplied by the NHS Lothian transfusion laboratory at Western General Hospital (for information and advice contact ext 31912).

<p>Blood components and associated storage requirements</p>	<p><a href="#">Blood components and storage and handling requirements</a></p>	<p>Red cells for transfusion in community hospitals are delivered directly to the clinical area in validated transit boxes. Once a transit box has been opened, transfusion must be completed within 4 hours. If blood is no longer required the transfusion laboratory must be contacted to arrange return of the unused component/s.</p> <p>Blood components <b>must never</b> be stored in any domestic or drug fridge.</p>
<p>Pre-transfusion blood sampling and completion of request form</p>	<p><a href="#">Blood samples for pre-transfusion testing</a></p>	<p>All pre-transfusion samples for patients in community hospitals must be sent to the SEBTS transfusion laboratory at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary*.</p> <p>*Please see ECC@ELCH SOP LINK <i>in development</i> for arrangements for that service.</p>
<p>Requesting blood components</p>	<p><a href="#">Requesting a blood component from the transfusion laboratory</a></p>	<p>When blood is requested from the transfusion laboratory by telephone, the staff member making the request must provide the patient's forename, surname, date of birth, CHI number and sex and ask that the details are repeated back to ensure safe patient identification.</p> <p>When requesting blood components, consideration must be given to allow for transit of samples and components between the clinical area and the transfusion laboratory.</p> <p><b>In the event of a major haemorrhage occurring on any of the non-acute NHS Lothian sites, the patient should be transferred as an emergency to an Emergency Department.</b></p>
<p>Collecting blood components</p>	<p><a href="#">Collection and delivery of blood components</a></p>	<p>Red cells for transfusion in community hospitals are delivered directly to the clinical area in validated transit boxes. Once a transit box has been opened, transfusion must be completed within 4 hours. If blood is no longer required the transfusion laboratory must be contacted to arrange return of the unused component/s.</p> <p>The staff member who receives the delivery from the driver must check that the correct blood component has been delivered for the correct patient.</p>
<p>Component administration</p>	<p><a href="#">Administration of blood</a></p>	<p>Blood and blood components must only be administered by a registered practitioner as listed:</p>

	<p><a href="#">components</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A registered medical practitioner (this also includes provisionally registered FY1s)</li> <li>• A registered nurse of band 5 or higher</li> <li>• A registered midwife</li> <li>• A registered operating departmental practitioner</li> </ul> <p>NHS Lothian procedure stipulates that each pack must be checked by <b>two</b> members of staff, one of which must be registered (see above).</p> <p>The other checker may be a registered member of staff or a student nurse, student ODP or student midwife, if the student has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• received practical instruction on safe blood transfusion at University (this may be face to face or delivered virtually),</li> <li>• completed the SNBTS National Undergraduate Transfusion Education Programme on TURAS (which incorporates LBT <i>Safe transfusion practice</i> eLearning) and</li> <li>• been assessed as competent to do so by their practice supervisor</li> <li>• please refer to <a href="#">Blood Transfusion Guideline: Roles and responsibilities in blood transfusion</a> for additional guidance</li> </ul>
<p>Adverse reactions (including reporting)</p>	<p><a href="#">Adverse reactions to blood components</a></p> <p><a href="#">Reporting adverse events and reactions</a></p>	<p>As main procedure.</p> <p>Please see ECC@ELCH SOP LINK <i>in development</i> for arrangements for that service.</p>