

Roles and responsibilities relating to blood transfusion procedures

Blood Transfusion Guideline



Purpose

This guideline outlines which staff can be involved in each step of the blood component transfusion procedures as well as relevant preparatory requirements to enable safe practice.

Roles and responsibilities relating to blood transfusion procedures

Only staff who have completed the relevant Learnbloodtransfusion (LBT) theory modules can participate in the stage/s of the transfusion process appropriate to their role/s. Modules are available via NHS Learnpro <https://nhs.learnprouk.com/> or TURAS Learn available at <https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/>

Process/Procedure	Can be performed by:	Notes
Decision to transfuse (includes consent and patient information)	Medical staff Registered nurse/midwife who has undertaken the recognised training course relating to the non-medical authorisation of blood components programme	The decision to transfuse, including the discussion with the patient, the provision of a patient information leaflet and consent to transfusion must be clearly documented on the transfusion record.
Requesting blood components from the transfusion laboratory	Medical staff, registered nurse/midwife who has undertaken specific training <i>or</i> when following agreed guidance (such as the Pre-operative transfusion sample guideline <i>in development</i>)	Only staff who have adequate knowledge, skills, understanding and education in transfusion can request blood components for transfusion.
Pre-transfusion blood sampling	Phlebotomist, band 3 healthcare support worker, band 4 assistant practitioner, registered nurse/midwife, operating department practitioner (ODP), medical staff, perfusionist, physician associate Registered bank/agency nurse/midwife/locum doctor	Staff can only participate in the pre-transfusion sampling procedure if trained and competent in venepuncture, and who have completed appropriate Learnbloodtransfusion (LBT) <i>Safe Transfusion Practice</i> education. As above

	<p>Undergraduate nursing, midwifery, medical, ODP and physician associate students must provide evidence of meeting proficiency standards and be supervised at all times</p>	<p>Undergraduate students are required to provide evidence of theory and clinical based simulation skills as part of the undergraduate transfusion training programme.</p> <p>For local information access relevant Higher Education Institute which will detail the clinical skills guidelines or contact local Practice Education Facilitator or appropriate educational supervisor.</p>
<p>Authorising blood components</p>	<p>Medical staff</p> <p>Registered nurse/midwife who has undertaken the recognised training course relating to the non-medical authorisation of blood components</p>	<p>Blood components are not designated as medicinal products under the Medicines Act*. All blood components for transfusion must be authorised for the patient and the signature of the person authorising must be clearly documented on the transfusion record.</p>
<p>Collection of blood components (from a transfusion laboratory or satellite blood fridge) for transport to the clinical area</p>	<p>Porters, healthcare support workers, maternity care assistants, assistant practitioners, registered nurse/midwife, ODPs</p>	<p>Only those who have received specific training in the collection of blood components AND have undertaken a practical competency assessment (as per Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005) with a trained blood component collection assessor (SNBTS 2020) can collect blood from a transfusion laboratory or satellite blood fridge.</p> <p>Undergraduate students are not permitted to collect blood components.</p>
<p>Final (bed)side administration checking procedure</p>	<p>Registered nurse / midwife, ODP, medical staff, clinical perfusionist, physician associate</p>	<p>BSH (2017) recommend an independent checking procedure must be carried out by at least one registered practitioner. In NHS Lothian a two-person pre-transfusion checking procedure is</p>

	<p>Registered bank/agency nurse/midwife</p> <p>Band 4 assistant practitioners (only assistant practitioners based in the haemoncology department may be involved in the pre-transfusion checking procedure)</p> <p>Undergraduate nursing, midwifery, medical, ODP and physician associate students must provide evidence of meeting proficiency standards and be supervised at all times</p>	<p>undertaken. This means that a double independent check is required i.e. each practitioner must perform the check at the same time but independently of each other. Must provide evidence of training in the final (bed) side checking procedure.</p> <p>As above.</p> <p>The service is required to have a standard operating procedure (SOP) in place regarding the role of the assistant practitioner in the final transfusion (bed)side checking procedure. This must outline the training and competency assessment required of the assistant practitioner prior to involvement as well as their scope of practice in the checking process. An associated risk assessment must also be in place relevant to the specialist area. The assistant practitioner must provide evidence of training and competency in the final bedside checking procedure. They must only undertake this role under an approved scheme of delegation with the registrant holding sole professional accountability for the administration of the transfusion.</p> <p>Undergraduate students are required to provide evidence of theory and clinical skills simulation as part of the undergraduate transfusion training programme. Where an infusion device is used to administered blood components, the student must also provide evidence of theory and clinical skills simulation relating to the</p>
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		<p>appropriate infusion device.</p> <p>For local information access Higher Education Institute which will detail the clinical skills guidelines or contact local Practice Education Facilitator or appropriate educational supervisor.</p>
Monitoring the transfused patient	<p>Registered nurse/midwife, ODP, clinical perfusionist, band 3 healthcare support worker, band 4 assistant practitioner, maternity care assistant, medical staff, physician associate</p> <p>Registered bank/agency nurse/midwife</p> <p>Undergraduate nursing, midwifery, ODP and physician associate students can participate in the monitoring of patients being transfused.</p>	<p>Only those who have completed mandatory LBT: <i>Safe transfusion practice</i>. Healthcare support workers, assistant practitioners and maternity care assistants must also have undertaken HCSW vital signs training and been signed off as competent.</p> <p>As above.</p> <p>Undergraduate students are required to provide evidence of theory and clinical skills simulation as part of the undergraduate transfusion training programme.</p> <p>For local information access relevant Higher Education Institute which will detail the clinical skills guidelines or contact local Practice Education Facilitator or appropriate educational supervisor.</p>

* Blood components are not designated as medicinal products under the Medicines Act and therefore cannot legally be prescribed by any practitioner. The term ‘prescription’ legally relates only to medicines listed in the British National Formulary; for blood components it is a written instruction or ‘authorisation’ to transfuse or administer.