

Summary of Events Originating in the Hospital Transfusion Laboratory - Previous Recommendations

Year first made	Action	Recommendation
2013	Trust/Health Board Chief Executive Officers, Transfusion Laboratory Managers, Hospital Transfusion Teams	All blood transfusion laboratories should be familiar with and comply with the UK Transfusion Laboratory Collaborative (UKTLC) standards. Accrediting and regulatory organisations have supported this initiative, therefore compliance with these standards is strongly recommended
2012	Transfusion Laboratory Managers	Regular practice and competency-assessment of manual techniques is important, where possible this should include checks of the critical steps by a second person when manual methods are employed
2012	Transfusion Laboratory Managers	Competency assessment in laboratories must be linked to process. Biomedical scientist (BMS) staff must be competent performing the test but must also have a thorough understanding of the context in which the test is being performed, i.e. the test in relation to a specific patient and the clinical information. Basing competency assessment on National Occupational Standards (NOS) will enable this, as NOS have both 'Performance' criteria and 'Knowledge and Understanding' criteria
2012	Transfusion Laboratory Managers, Pathology IT Managers, LIMS providers, Hospital Transfusion teams (HTTs)	Hospital Transfusion Teams (HTTs) should perform a local risk assessment on the way in which the transfusion laboratory is informed by clinicians of either specific requirements, or previous history provided by patients direct to clinicians. For example, having a robust process to inform the laboratory when treatment on purine analogues starts, rather than when blood is requested, has merit
2012	Transfusion Laboratory Managers, Pathology IT Managers, LIMS providers, HTTs	Warning flags must be clear and appear on all relevant screens in the transfusion process and if overridden, should include a positive response from the user with rationale behind the decision

2012	Hospital Transfusion Laboratory Managers; Pathology Managers	Hospital transfusion laboratories should be encouraged to participate in the national electronic access scheme for blood group and antibody information which is being developed by National Health Service Blood & Transplant (NHSBT) (called Sp-ICE), and equivalent systems in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland for patients with complex transfusion requirements, and as recommended by National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) safer practice notice, to use the NHS or number
2011	Transfusion Laboratory Managers, Pathology IT managers, LIMS Providers	As the specification of transfusion laboratory information management systems (LIMS) is further developed it is vital that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a minimum there is a requirement for positive confirmation, by the biomedical scientist (BMS), at the point of component reservation, that special requirements have been met - Preferably, a requirement for a direct check within the LIMS, that the component meets the special requirement on record - Warnings must be clear and appear on all relevant screens in the transfusion process - Warning flags need a positive response from the user as to why they are being overridden