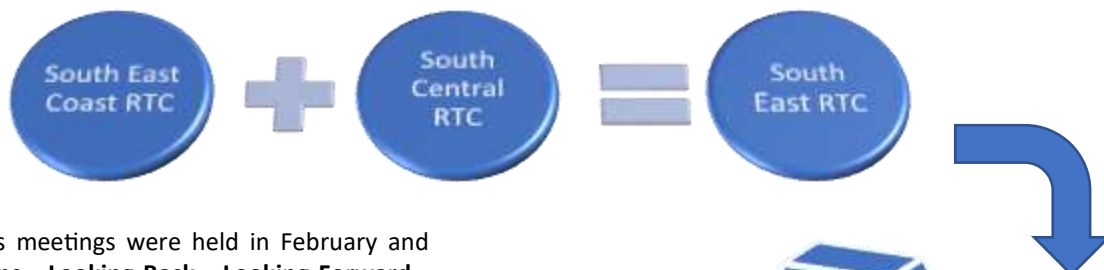




South East Regional Transfusion Committee

2021 Activity Summary Report

Welcome to the first South East (SE) Regional Transfusion Committee (RTC) Activity Summary. As you will be aware, in 2020 the National Blood Transfusion Committee (NBTC) agreed to align the ten RTCs to the current seven. This resulted in the amalgamation of the South Central and South East Coast RTC regions to the single SE RTC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their patience and willingness to get involved, as the two regions seamlessly became one. As you will see, despite another challenging year, we have continued to work together and share best practice. **Howard Wakeling, SE RTC Chair.**



Two final virtual RTC business meetings were held in February and March for the SC & SEC regions - **Looking Back... Looking Forward** - completing actions and identifying projects to take forward.

Realignment to SE RTC began from April 2021, with Education, Regional Transfusion Teams (RTT), Transfusion Practitioners (TP) and Transfusion Laboratory Managers (TLM) joining ventures under the one regional banner.

The **SE RTT** has 20 members, and the first SE RTT meeting held in June, chaired by RTC Chair Howard Wakeling with Kerry Dowling, TLM appointed Deputy Chair. The RTT Terms of Reference (TOR) were ratified at October's meeting, outlining RTT objectives.

Jo Lawrence and Jonathan Ricks co-chaired three **TP meetings**, held in May, July, and November.

2021 Transfusion Practitioners' summary

The new SE TP group had their first joint meeting in May 2021 via Teams (of course!). There was an excellent and enthusiastic turnout from both the "old" regions and lots of new contacts made. Projects to take forward were agreed and funding was secured to update the QS138 audit tool which the new region will pilot. Sharing of knowledge has already been very successful, looking at gender neutral language within blood transfusion without compromising care and sharing policies on refusal / consent for transfusion. We look forward to working with all the regional groups to start successfully implementing Transfusion 2024 recommendations over the coming months.

There are **two TLM groups** in the SE, the Southampton/Oxford user group, and the London & South East TADG. Whilst the user groups will remain aligned to the blood centres they are served by, communication updates will be maintained via RTT channels to ensure sharing of objectives, discussion points and good practice continues.

2021 Transfusion Laboratory Managers' summary

2021 was a difficult year, laboratories continued working under the demands and restrictions of the pandemic and work towards reducing the surgical backlog. Workloads and staffing levels varied considerably. Potential component shortages towards the end of 2021 led to laboratories and clinical colleagues working together to manage stock availability. TLMs in the region met these challenges ensuring a safe and appropriate service was provided.

The **London & South East Trauma & Haematology Group**, a long-standing meeting uniting key representatives from Major Trauma Centres (MTC) and Air Ambulances to discuss current issues expanded to include all three MTCs in the SE: Royal Sussex, Oxford, and Southampton.

SE RTC 2022 workplan

The first SE Joint TP/TLM meeting was held in September, with 41 attendees discussing idea proposals for the 2022 regional activity. It was considered a very effective and worthwhile meeting, to be repeated in Autumn.

The SE RTT met in January 2022 to discuss ideas put forward. Thank you to all for your suggestions, the 2022 workplan has now been drawn-up and incorporates elements of [Transfusion 2024](#), which provides recommendations for the overall direction of travel for clinical and laboratory transfusion practice. A regional approach will be required to deliver many of the key actions to achieve the very best.

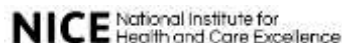


BMS Serology Study Courses - 34 junior Biomedical Scientists from across the new region attended one of two 2-day virtual courses held over four consecutive mornings in September. The training covered basic serology and the more complicated concepts which are commonly sent to the Red Cell Immunohaematology Laboratory. 94% of survey respondents agreed that the courses helped their understanding of transfusion laboratory principles.

A very successful virtual **Transfusion Bites** event was held in November, with six presentations. Talks included Major Haemorrhage, Transfusion-Associated Circulatory Overload, and Vaccine Induced Thrombocytopenia and Thrombosis. Opened more widely as a national event for anyone involved in Blood Transfusion, it had an "audience" of 171. The feedback survey showed 100% of attendees would recommend future events to colleagues. All presentations available via the [PBM YouTube Channel](#).



Regional Audits and Activity



Auditing of [NICE Blood Transfusion Quality Standard QS138](#) was previously carried out in both SC and SEC RTs this will continue in SE RTC. 2021 saw the National Comparative Audit (NCA) of Quality Standard QS138, a snapshot audit comparing practice against four quality statements: Iron supplementation, Tranexamic Acid, Reassessment after transfusion, and Information given to transfused patients. An existing **QS138 Audit Tool**, created by SEC RTC & NHSBT, is now being upgraded following funding by the NBTC, enabling hospitals to enter a quality improvement cycle. The tool allows users to self-generate compliance reports, benchmarking performance regionally and nationally, supporting both NCA recommendations to re-audit, and Transfusion 2024, to enable self-assessment. **Pilot due Spring.**

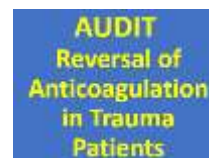
Reviewing regional blood component issue and wastage figures was a key activity in SC and considered important to keep. A **SE Blood Component Key Performance Index working group** is forming between hospital representatives and the team at Blood Stocks Management Scheme, NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), to look at ways of providing hospitals with reports to support appropriate inventory practice, whilst providing an opportunity to understand how components are used in the SE. If you would like more information, please contact frances.moll@nhsbt.nhs.uk



An **O Pos to Bleeding Males*** survey sent out by the NBTC saw responses from nineteen hospitals in the SE. Ten of Seventeen Trusts responded, all of which had a policy to give O positive red cells to adult males in an emergency where the blood group is unknown. A regional survey will be repeated in 2022 to get a fuller picture, and a **working group** is being set up to share practice and offer support. If you would like to join, please contact frances.moll@nhsbt.nhs.uk (*adult patients assigned male at birth)



In 2021, The London and South East Trauma and Haematology Group began a pilot looking at the **reversal of anticoagulation (warfarin/DOACs) in trauma patients**. This was following a scoping survey in 2020 which showed that whilst many hospitals have a policy, more than 70% had not audited how protocol was followed. Thanks to those who volunteered for the pilot during June and July 2021, this enabled the full launch of the audit on January 4 2022 for three months. The audit includes patients on anticoagulation, admitted with traumatic injury (including suspected head injury after falls). If you would like to participate, please contact sue.katic@nhsbt.nhs.uk



Sharing Good Practice

- Significant improvements in the use of iron and in identifying reversible causes of anaemia prior to transfusion have been seen at **Mountbatten Hampshire** by introducing a palliative care anaemia management flow chart, developed with **University Hospital Southampton NHS Trust**.
- A successful 2021 at **Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust**'s new IV iron service, 624 IV iron infusions given.
- Berkshire and Surrey Pathology Service** sites have reviewed and updated their Group and Save policy.
- Isle of Wight District General** saved £22k in 2020 by halving platelets held to one pool. In 2021 they focused on unnecessary use and wastage of O neg associated with urgent demands and are using a new protocol for massive blood loss.
- East Kent and University Hospitals Sussex NHS Trusts** have written Good Practice summaries for the [O neg Toolkit](#). Further resources discussed at Transfusion Bites on Massive Haemorrhage and Emergency O selection will be shared on the new SE JPAC page.
- Poster Submissions**



BBTS: PO49: *When 'guideline' compatibility is not an option* **University Hospitals Sussex & NHSBT**; PO52: *Emergency uncrossmatched blood: Introducing O D Positive Red Blood Cells for female patients over the age of 60, with electronic prompts at the fridge* **University Hospital Southampton NHS FT**; Congratulations to [Margaret Kenwright Awards](#) winners: MK03 *Transfusion requirements in operative care of appendicitis and related surgery..* **Oxford University Hospitals NHS FT**; and MK06 *The Right Time for Iron -* **Royal Surrey NHS FT**

SHOT: P-02 Blood administration training: Facilitating positive change to enhance the delivery and compliance of training. **University Hospitals Sussex**; P-11 The Challenges of developing Transfusion E-learning packages in an Electronic Blood Tracking System **Oxford University Hospitals**; P-22 Comparison of FFP wastage 2018 & 2020 – **Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust**

Royal College of Physicians poster regional winners 2021: Oxford and Thames Valley region: *Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of acting on a critically abnormal blood result ...*, **Frimley Health NHS FT**; Wessex region: *Improving the Management of Anaemia in Solid Tumour Patients receiving Chemotherapy...*, **University Hospital Southampton NHS FT**; Kent, Surrey, Sussex (KSS) region: *Do we need national head and neck cancer referral guidelines?...* **Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust**

Coming soon! A new South East RTC section is being added to the JPAC website.