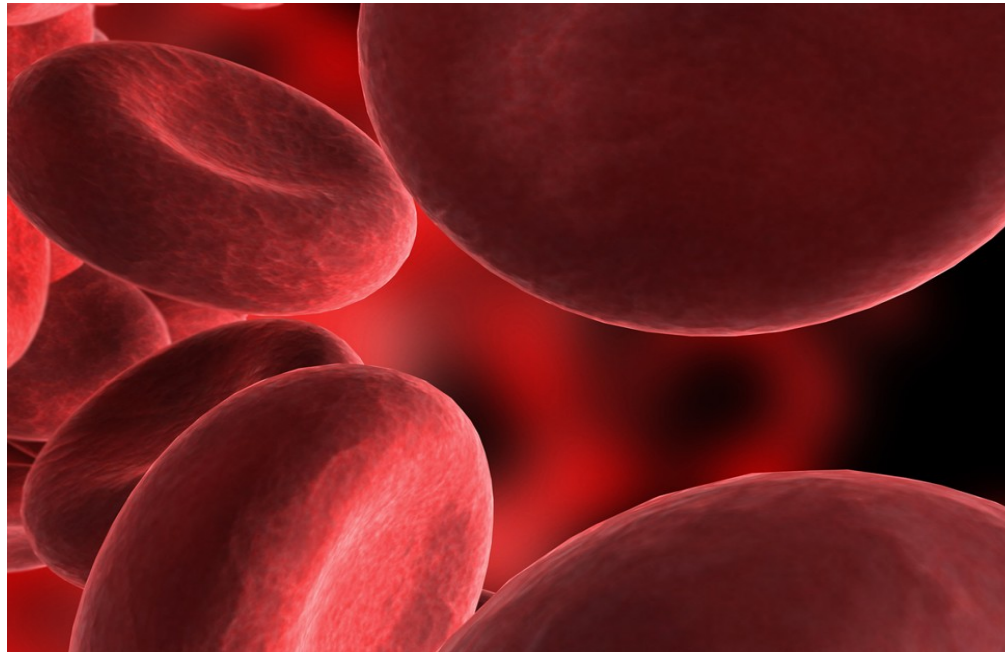


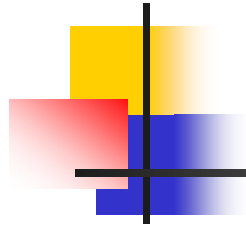
# Consent for Blood Transfusion

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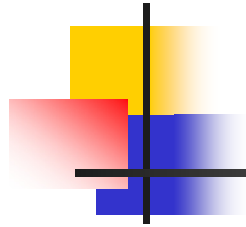
Vicki Davidson

Transfusion Practitioner, South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust



# Learning Outcomes

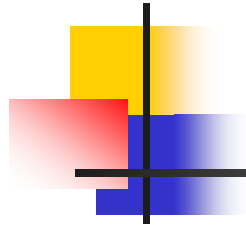
- An awareness of the latest recommendations regarding consent for blood transfusion
- A recap on the risks and benefits of transfusion
- How to obtain consent
- How to document the consent procedure
- What information to give to patients
- Where to access further information
- Please ask questions!



# Introduction

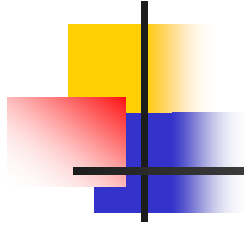
It is an accepted principle that a patient should give valid consent before receiving medical treatment, and this includes when they receive a blood transfusion<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/patient-consent-for-blood-transfusion>



# SaBTO recommendations

- 2010, SaBTO (independent advisory body) public consultation = 14 recommendations
- DH has not mandated the recommendations; Trusts to decide locally on how the recommendations will be implemented
- Organisations working to assist Trusts to implement the recommendations (BBT)



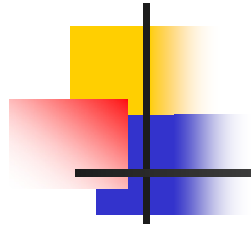
The decision to transfuse is made following consideration of the potential risks and benefits of, and the alternatives to, transfusion. Where possible this is discussed between the clinician and patient (or their legal guardian) in advance of transfusion<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>[http://www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk/docs/pdfs/bbt\\_consentstandard\\_final.pdf](http://www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk/docs/pdfs/bbt_consentstandard_final.pdf)



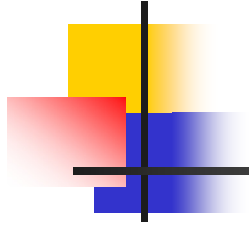
**Who wants a blood  
transfusion?**

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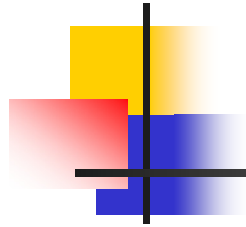
**Benefits.....**

**Risks.....**



- What do people understand about transfusions?
- What are their perceptions of risk?
- What do they read about in the papers?





# The 'Headlines' ?.....


Mad Cow Infected Blood 'to Kill 1,000'

Telegraph, April, 2013

Tainted Blood, Anita Roddick Died  
after Contracting Hepatitis C from a  
1971 Blood Transfusion

Daily Mail, Feb 2007

# Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT)

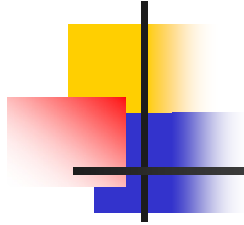


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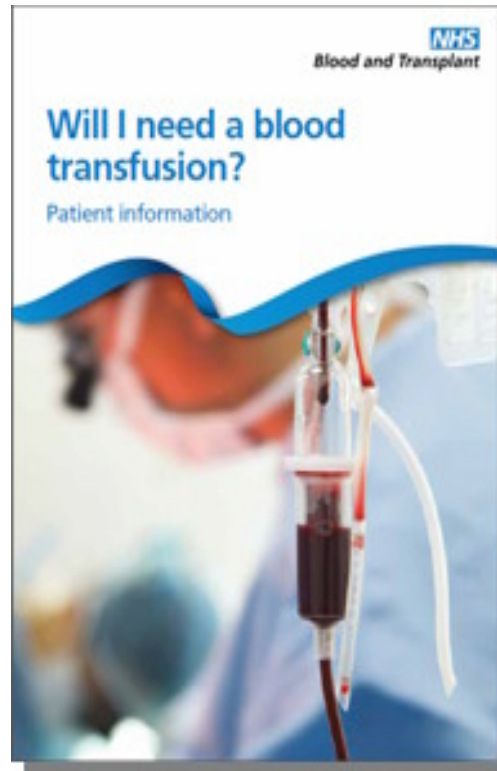
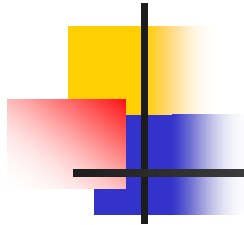
- 'The headlines from 2012 reporting are a continued high rate of error related to omission of essential procedural steps and communication failures'

~~SHOT, 2012 report, published July 2013~~

Are you going to tell your patient this  
information?



- What information should we give to the patient
  - When should we provide this information
  - What's the best way to give information
  - Who should provide the information
  - How should we document consent
  - Emergency transfusions (retrospective consent)
- 
- Do we need any information from our patients?



- SaBTO recommended a standardised information resource
- Information booklet designed by NHSBT
- To be provided to patient in conjunction with verbal information from a suitably informed and trained healthcare practitioner



# Retrospective consent



**Blood and Transplant**

## Information for patients who have received an unexpected blood transfusion

Note: This leaflet should be read alongside the NHS Blood and Transplant patient information leaflet "Will I need a blood transfusion?"

While you were in hospital, it was necessary for you to receive a blood transfusion. There are many reasons why patients may need a transfusion, some of which are discussed in the "Will I need a blood transfusion?" leaflet. However do please ask a member of your healthcare team about why you needed a blood transfusion. They will be able to answer any questions you may have.

### Are blood transfusions safe?

Yes, the risk that a blood transfusion may make you ill is very low. More information about any potential infection risks, and all the measures that are taken to ensure your safety, is included in the leaflet "Will I need a blood transfusion?".

### I'm a blood donor. Can I still donate?

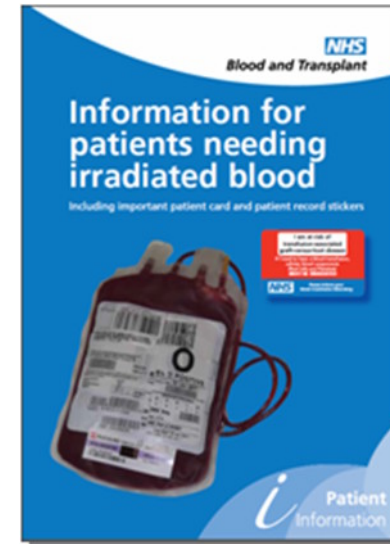
As a precautionary measure to reduce the risk of transmitting variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD), people who have received a blood transfusion since 1980 are not currently able to donate blood.

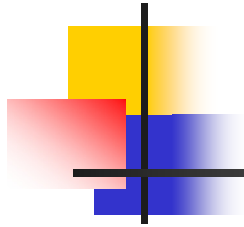
### Do I need to tell my doctor?

The hospital should include information in the discharge letter to your GP to tell them that you have had a blood transfusion, and to explain why it was carried out. The hospital should give you a copy of this letter, if they don't, you can ask the hospital for a copy.

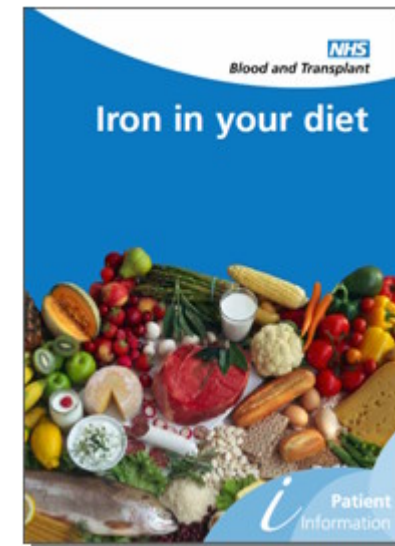


## Further information from NHSBT





- What are the alternatives to transfusion?





# Finally....

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- **'Valid' consent to be documented in patient's clinical record by the healthcare professional**
- **Modified form of consent for long term multi-transfused patients**
- **UK comparative audit of consent scheduled for early 2014**





# Resources and references

- [www.gov.uk/government/publications/patient-consent-for-blood-transfusion](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/patient-consent-for-blood-transfusion) (SaBTO report)
- [www.learnbloodtransfusion.org.uk](http://www.learnbloodtransfusion.org.uk) (e-learning module on consent)
- [www.shotuk.org](http://www.shotuk.org) (Serious Hazards of Transfusion, UK haemovigilance)
- [www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk](http://www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk) (Better Blood Transfusion Toolkit - Patient and Public Involvement - Consent for Blood Transfusion)
- Patient information leaflets available from BBT team at NHSBT
- For general information on blood transfusion please see: [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk)