

# How informed are you?

## Consent and Patient information

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# Overview

- Facts
- Change

# Background

March 2010 SaBTO

The consultation had the following key objectives:

- **Identify the preferred option for recording consent**
- **Explore the potential operational impact of implementing a standardised form of consent for transfusion**
- **Confirm what type of information patients should receive**

# Summary

*14 recommendations / 3 broad categories:*

## **Clinical practice:**

What should be done / hospital policy

## **Governance:**

Review of clinical practice

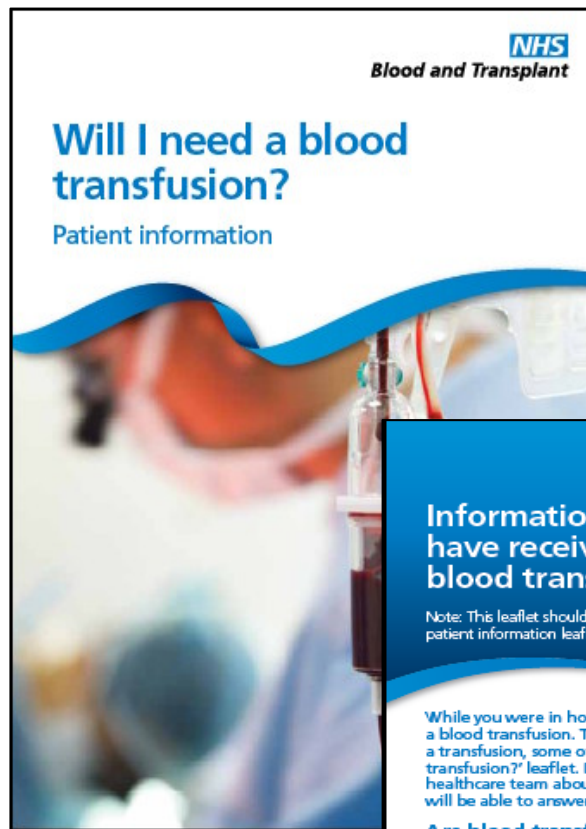
## **Education:**

To help support clinical practice

# Key issues to be discussed when obtaining valid consent

- Type of blood component
- Indication for transfusion
- Benefits
- Risks
- Possible alternatives
- Administration and Positive Patient Identification
- Following transfusion the patient can no longer donate blood

# Provide Patient Information Leaflets



**NHS**  
**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.

**Right Blood, Right Patient, Right Time** **NHS** **Failure**

## Transfusion 10 commandments

1. Transfusion should only be given when the benefits outweigh the risks and there are no alternatives
2. Laboratory results should be used as a deciding factor
3. Transfusion should only be given on clinical assessment and in line with clinical guidelines
4. Anaemic patients may not need transfusion
5. Discuss the need for transfusion with the patient
6. Initial resuscitation should be with crystalloids before delay ordering blood
7. Patients must be identified (e.g. by name band)
8. The patient's details should be checked during the transfusion
9. The reason for transfusion should be documented in the patient's notes
10. Education and training for transfusion practice

**Is blood transfusion necessary?**

- There is no universal "trigger" for transfusion
- Transfusion given at any haemoglobin level can cause morbidity and mortality. Unnecessary transfusion increases this risk
- If the haemoglobin is below 70g/L, transfusion is usually indicated
- If the haemoglobin is above 70g/L and under 100g/L, the decision to transfuse should be based on the clinical condition of the patient
- If the haemoglobin is above 100g/L, transfusion is rarely indicated

BCSH Guidelines for the use of blood components (1999)  
[www.bcsghguidelines.com](http://www.bcsghguidelines.com)

SIGN Perioperative Blood Transfusion for elective surgery (2001)  
[www.sign.ac.uk](http://www.sign.ac.uk)

**Right Blood, Right Patient, Right Time**

**ALWAYS positively confirm the patient's identity**

- Ask the patient (if able) to state their surname, first name and date of birth - check against the ID band

**CHECK the patient's details are identical on the ID band and the pack**

- Do the check at the patient's bedside
- If there is any discrepancy DO NOT transfuse

**TRANSFUSE blood within 4 hours of taking it out of the fridge**

- Avoid overnight transfusion in a stable patient

**NHS**

[www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk](http://www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk)

Document in notes  
*or*  
Completion of written consent form

# NCA Consent Audit 2014

Commissioned by SaBTO to audit the extent to which patients receiving a transfusion are:

- involved in the decision making process
- provided with sufficient information to allow them to make an informed choice

***And .....***

The extent to which we can demonstrate patient centred care through medical notes



# Results

- ✓ *encouraging*
- ✓ *improvements*
- ✗ *disappointingly low results in documenting the discussion of risks, benefits and alternatives*

# Consent....what's new?



Montgomery v Lanarkshire March 2015

# Legally.....What does this mean?

- The Bolam test is no longer applicable
- The law now requires a Doctor to take:

***“reasonable care to ensure that the patient is aware of material risks involved in any recommended treatment and of any reasonable alternative or variant treatments.”***

# What does this mean in practice?

- Does the patient know the “material” risks of the proposed treatment?
  - What risks would a reasonable person want to know about?
  - What other risks would this particular patient want to know about?

# What does this mean in practice?

- Does the patient know about available alternatives?
- Have I tried to ensure the patient understands all the information?
- Have I documented the details of the consent process?

# Exceptions!

1. The patient requests not to be informed
2. Clinical situation means consent cannot be obtained
3. There is a genuine and significant risk of harm associated with providing the patient the information at that time

**Being too busy is not an adequate reason!!**

# Where does that leave us?

- Some evidence of good practice ✓
- SaBTO and GMC guidance is clear ✓
- Montgomery case - clearly states legal position ✓

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..... So why doesn't good consent happen?

# 1. Time constraints

I only have 5 minutes ..... how am I going to fit everything in?

**Remember.....Montgomery case**

**Being too busy is not an adequate reason!!**



## 2. Information Overload?

How can I remember everything I need to know? ?? **Doctors Information leaflet**

Who can help me? **Be prepared**

## Consent to Blood Transfusion

**WHEREVER POSSIBLE VERBAL CONSENT  
SHOULD BE OBTAINED**

**EXPLAIN HOW BENEFITS OUTWEIGH THE RISKS**

**RISKS SUMMARISED OVERLEAF**

**STRESS HOW RISKS ARE MITIGATED**

**OFFER PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLETS**

**EXPLAIN INDICATION FOR TRANSFUSION**

**CONSIDER / OFFER ALTERNATIVES  
IF POSSIBLE**

### **Vital Information:**

Patients who have received a blood components since 1980 are not permitted to be blood donors.

**The indication for transfusion must be  
recorded in the notes:**

.....

Further information or support can be gained from  
Transfusion Practitioner or Transfusion Laboratory.

South East Coast  
Regional Transfusion Committee

### 3. Level of transfusion knowledge

- Are we asking too much of the staff who take consent?
- Would it be helpful to have more transfusion information/training?

**Would you know the answers to the following patient questions?**

***What is the risk of catching HIV from my transfusion?***

**A. 1 in 6.5 million**

**B. 1 in 28 million**

***How long will my blood transfusion take?***

***A: up to 4 hours / unit***

***B: up to 30 mins / unit***

***I'm blood group O ..... Does this mean I can have blood from anybody?***

***A: Yes***

***B: No***

***Would you discuss an alternative to transfusion if applicable?***

**A: Yes**

**B: No**

# Patient Blood Management – Key messages

- **Patient** - at the heart of decision making
- **Blood** – conserve patient's own blood, avoid transfusion where appropriate
- **Management** – organise and co-ordinate
- Further information can be found at:

<http://www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk>

under 'National Blood Transfusion Committee'



# Would you say yes?

*“We’re just going to give you a blood transfusion. Ok?”*

*“ We’re just going to give you a kidney/liver transplant. Ok?”*

# From the patient's point of view

*What does the patient want to know?*

*Where do you pitch the conversation?*

- Some want to know everything
- Some want to know nothing
- “What do you think doctor?” i.e. make the decision for me!
- Some won't understand....some will
- Some will take everything in...some will need more time to digest info - ideal world give info and go back later

# From the patient's point of view

## *Must cover all the SaBTO points*

- use professional judgement
- know your patient
- engage with them
- Listen
- Bespoke
- Ensure understanding

# # hellomynameis

“ I firmly believe that it is not just about knowing someone’s name, but it runs much deeper. It is about making a human connection, beginning a therapeutic relationship and building trust. In my mind it is the first rung on the ladder to providing compassionate care”

– Dr Kate Granger

# I will..... Initiative

“I will.....keep you safe during a blood or blood product transfusion”

© Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

# Transfusion Awareness

- Patients are more informed than ever before
- Patient Choice, Patient's Charter and the impact of the Francis Report
- Patient Blood Management Initiative ~ 2012
- No Decision Without Me About Me ~ 2012
- Transfusion is a part of many patient's treatment
- Individual choice is a basic human right!

# Local Resources

Transfusion Practitioner

Transfusion Laboratory Staff

Hospital Transfusion Committee

YOUR Trust Transfusion policy

The Patient Blood Management Team

Regional Transfusion Committee

# Web based Resources

[www.transfusionguidelines.org](http://www.transfusionguidelines.org)

[www.access-24.co.uk](http://www.access-24.co.uk)

<http://hospital.blood.co.uk>

[www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk)

[www.learnbloodtransfusion.org.uk](http://www.learnbloodtransfusion.org.uk)

Patient information can also be found at NHS Choices at:

<http://www.nhs.uk>

and via Facebook, Twitter and You Tube