South West Regional Transfusion Committee
Annual Report 2018/19

Introduction
This report documents the work of the South West Regional Transfusion Committee (RTC) over the 12 months from April 2018 to March 2019.

The remit of the RTC is:
1. To provide data on the transfusion practice of hospitals within the region;
2. To monitor transfusion practice through audit on a regular basis;
3. To demonstrate regional education in good transfusion practice;
4. To report on performance monitoring of the transfusion related services provided by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT);
5. To provide information on patients’ experiences about the provision of transfusion services.

The South West RTC (SWRTC) has an interest in all transfusion practice which occurs in the South West of England.

There are 10 RTCs in England, all report to the National Blood Transfusion Committee (NBTC) and have a Regional Transfusion Team (RTT) to progress RTC business.

RTC/RTT Meetings and Membership
In 2018/19 the SWRTC met twice (in May and November), and the SWRTT met 4 times.

SWRTC membership is made up of representatives from the Hospital Transfusion Committees (HTCs) within the region, from NHSBT, and a patient representative. This membership now includes a blood conservation doctor who was a GP and has strong links with General Practice in the region.

We have tried to recruit a current GP to the SWRTC but not succeeded to date.

17 out of 17 NHS Trust HTCs sent a representative to the 1st RTC meeting, and 16 out of 17 to the 2nd. There was representation from 1 of the 3 independent hospitals at the 1st meeting, and from 1 at the 2nd.

SWRTT membership for 2018/19:
SWRTC Chair: Dr Sarah Wexler, Consultant Haematologist – Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Foundation Trust.
SWRTC Administrator: Jackie McMahon – NHSBT;
Dave Fisher, Transfusion Laboratory Manager (TLM) – Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust/Tim Wreford-Bush TLM for North Bristol NHS Trust took over at the end of the period;
Caroline Lowe, TP – Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust;
Katy Cowan, Patient Blood Management Practitioner – NHSBT;
Rhian Edwards, Customer Service Manager – NHSBT.
The SWRTC had no Patient Clinical Team Consultant for the year.

Representation on Other Groups
- The RTC Chair is a member of the NBTC and the RTC Chairs group;
- Stephen Bassey (TLM) is a member of the NBTC TLMs Working Group;
- Tim Wreford-Bush is representative of the Filton and Plymouth TLM group;
- John Faulds (Cell Salvage Co-ordinator) is a member of the UK Cell Salvage Action Group.
1. Provide data on the transfusion practice of hospitals within the region

A survey is sent out annually to all hospitals in the region with a blood transfusion laboratory, to enable the RTC to appraise changes in transfusion practice. This was the 14th year of data collection. The main results of the survey were as follows –

- 15/17 NHS Trusts responded, and 3/3 independent hospitals.
- All participating sites had a TLM, TP, HTC chair, and a Consultant Haematologist with responsibility for transfusion; 8 NHS Consultant Haematologists had <1 or 0 dedicated sessions per week for this role.
- 5 HTCs had no medical, 4 no obstetric & gynaecological, 5 no surgical, 10 no orthopaedic, and 6 no Emergency Department representation.
- 66% of sites stated that if the indication was unclear requests for transfusion were usually challenged by transfusion laboratory staff.
- 83% of sites had a trust wide pre-operative assessment policy to identify anaemia
- 89% of sites use Electronic blood issue, and 39% use electronic/radiofrequency technology throughout the transfusion process.
- Induction blood transfusion training was received by more than 75% of all staff groups in over 2 thirds of hospitals; update training was similarly strong amongst nurses, HCAs, ODPs, porters and phlebotomists, but substantially less in medical staff.
- 45% of sites stock rFVIIa (7 of those that do not are NHS Trusts).
- 100% of NHS Trusts stock Prothrombin Complex Concentrate (PCC).
- 78% of sites provide ‘in routine hours’ intra-operative cell salvage (3 NHS Trusts do not); >20% of sites provide post-operative cell salvage (3 NHS trusts).
- These results were presented at RTC in November 2018.
- A letter from the RTC chair was sent to the HTC chair of 10 NHS Trusts with outlying performance.

Each hospital was provided with an end of year highlight report which included blood usage and wastage, attendance at regional transfusion meetings and audit participation, together with a Monthly Highlight Report comparing issues and recording wastage over a 12 month rolling period.

2. Monitor transfusion through audit on a regular basis

The SWRTC promotes participation in regional and national audits, presents regional data from national audits at RTC meetings, and supports the sharing of local audit data.

--Audits and Presentations given at RTC included:
2018 database survey results
Re-audit of PBM in adults undergoing elective scheduled surgery
Re-audit of red cell and platelet transfusions in adult haematology patients
Chronic transfusion audit
SHOT survey results (designed to gauge the ability of clinicians to recognize reportable hazards of transfusion
Coagulopathy in major haemorrhage patients
Platelet wastage in major/obstetric haemorrhage patients
Therapeutic monoclonal antibodies and blood transfusion
Cell salvage in #NoF
Guidelines for tranexamic acid in #NoF/trauma

Blood component issues data for each hospital in the SW region was regularly reviewed by the SWRTT, and presented at HTCs. This was benchmarked against other SW hospitals in the same Blood Stocks Management Scheme (BSMS) usage category.

SWRTC has continued to present CMV negative component data at RTC meetings. This has helped to achieve a decrease of CMV negative red cell requests of 75.7% in 2018/19 compared to 2012/13. Over this time period there has been a 68.2% reduction in CMV negative platelet requests. This has realised a financial saving to hospitals regionally of £110,974 when comparing expenditure in 2012/13 and 2018/19. Almost all of this was NHS hospital use.

As a result of sustained scrutiny of blood component issues, and good practice activities, this year has seen a reduction in issues of red cells to hospitals in the SW of 2.4%, which is comparative to a decrease nationally of 1.8%. Platelet issues saw a decrease of 0.6% compared to a national decrease of 1.6%. Issues of FFP have decreased by 6.6% regionally in comparison with a reduction of 3.1% nationally.

This overall reduction in issues corresponds to a cost saving of more than £384,000 collectively for hospitals across the region when compared to 2017/18 (based upon 2018/19 costs for red blood cells and pooled platelets).

### Annual blood component issues:

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<tr>
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<th>South West</th>
<th>National</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RBC</td>
<td>▼6.5%</td>
<td>▼5.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>O Neg (%)</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Platelets</td>
<td>▲3.0%</td>
<td>▲0.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FFP</td>
<td>▼3.0%</td>
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*O-Neg. shown is a percentage of total red cell issues for that year.

### 3. Demonstrate regional education in good transfusion practice

The SWRTC education group provides direction for the SWRTC on educational issues. Two education days were held:

- Lab Matters Study Day – aimed at training and empowering laboratory staff; 16 delegates from 7 different trusts and 1 private hospital attended.
- PBM in Surgery – aimed at all staff involved in the assessment and management of patients undergoing surgery; 76 delegates from 12 trusts, 4 private hospitals and representatives of the Jehovah’s Witness HLCs attended.

The SWRTC home page was updated regularly with regional and national news; guidelines, recommendations, resources and presentations from the RTC meetings. Study days were also made available on the SWRTC Web Pages.
The SWRTC are continuing to develop resources and activities around the implementation of the PBM recommendations.

**4. Report on performance monitoring of the transfusion related services provided by NHSBT.**

The RTC continues to be an important forum for communication with NHSBT via regular reports from NHSBT, the TLM/User group and the NHSBT Hospital Liaison (HL) Team. Both RTC meetings were attended by all members of the South West HL Team.

The following were presented to the RTC in 2018/19:
- RBC, platelet and CMV-ve issues comparison data
- Quarterly wastage reports.
- Updates from a representative of the TLM and TP groups at both RTCs.

The TLM group is convened by NHSBT, and the Filton and Plymouth TLM group met 3 times in 2018/19.

**5. Provide information on patient experiences about the provision of transfusion services**

The SWRTC has two patient representatives.

**RTC Budget**

Major expenses incurred in 2018/19 were the education days and the SWRTC meetings.

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<tr>
<th>South West RTC Budget Expenditure April 2018 – March 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenditure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Add Total from Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Remaining</td>
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**Summary**

The SWRTC continues to support activity and address issues in blood transfusion throughout the region by continuing the annual transfusion practice 'database' survey, analysis and distribution of blood component issues data, initiation of regional audit and presentation and dissemination of national and local audit results.

Next year the RTC intends to continue routine survey/audit activity and promote local audit. Regional educational events are planned for transfusion laboratory staff, and for another professional group involved in transfusion once the new PBMP is in post, together with any other events identified to meet regional needs.

The RTC wishes to thank Dr Sarah Wexler for guiding practice over this very productive year.

*Report prepared by the South West Regional Transfusion Team June 2019*