



UK Red Alert Plan Group

Terms of Reference

1.0 BACKGROUND

The group was originally established in November 2022 following the Amber Alert in England. The aim was to ensure that the four nations were aware of the blood stock situation across the UK, and to enable a co-ordinated response should stocks fall to Red phase levels.

It has proven valuable to have regular four nation meetings to discuss supply chain issues and it is now appropriate that the remit, scope and working arrangements of the group be formalised.

2.0 REMIT

To ensure that all four nations are aware of shortages in blood stocks across the country to enable collaboration and support as required especially group O negative red cells or group A negative platelets, as these are the products at higher risk of shortage.

3.0 SCOPE

To ensure all the phases of the shortage plans across the UK are aligned and guidance to hospitals in each phase is similar helping to ensure equity of care across the UK. The scope is focussed on the provision of blood transfusion support and advice across the continuum of care.

4.0 MEMBERSHIP

Representatives from each nation. The Chair will rotate every 2-3 years. Members will be senior medical staff with responsibilities for, and experience in, transfusion medicine, supply chain and resilience planning and management of blood shortages. Any member who is unable to attend will need to nominate a deputy for that meeting, this will ensure appropriate representation from all 4 nations at each meeting.

5.0 WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

There will be a minimum of three meetings via TEAMS each year. Administrative support for the group will be provided by NHSBT.

The group will send an annual report to the UK forum.

6.0 KEY STAKEHOLDERS

There are stakeholders whose engagement with the work of group will be valuable. These include:

- Working groups of the four National blood transfusion committees (NBTC, SNBTC, NITC add in appropriate for Wales).
- Supply chain planning teams for the four UK blood services
- NHS England: Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)
- UK Forum

7.0 OUTCOME MEASURES

The development and delivery of recommendations for managing blood shortages across the four nations. These will be incorporated into shortage plans and other relevant documentation where appropriate by each nation.