

When to challenge requests for blood components – and why

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Why question ?

- Appropriate use
- Safety

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- Shortage
- Cost

Mortality and morbidity in patients with very low postoperative Hb levels

Hb level (g/dl)	% mortality	% mortality/morbidity
1.1 - 2.0	100%	100%
2.1 - 3.0	54.2%	91.7%
3.1 - 4.0	25%	52.6%
4.1 - 5.0	34.4%	57.7%
5.1 - 6.0	9.3%	28.6%
6.1 - 7.0	8.9%	22%
7.1 - 8.0	0%	9.4%

Odds of death in patients with post-op Hb <8 g/dl increased 2.5 fold for each gram decrease in Hb. (Transfusion 2002, 42, 812-818)

2011 NCA Medical Use of Red Cells in Adults

Inappropriate transfusion - National 13%, NBT 9%

Iron deficiency

Parameter	Men	Women
Total number	4791	4335
With ferritin result (%)	1774 (37%)	1725 (40%)
With ferritin ≤ 20 mcg/l (male) or ≤ 15 mcg/l (female)	248	341
With transferrin saturation ≤ 20 in cases without ferritin results	58	78
With MCV ≤ 78 fl in cases without ferritin or iron studies	210	264
Total possible iron deficiency	516	683

Overall 13% of all patients transfused

In NBT at least 13% transfused with iron deficiency

Management of anaemia and avoidance of Transfusion. Audit in NI February 2010

743 transfusion episodes audited. 1 in 4 could have been avoided.

Iron deficiency most common cause of correctable anaemia



National comparative audit of platelet transfusions 2010

Key Findings of the audit with regard to the inappropriate use of platelet transfusions

1. The audit found 28% (915/ 3296) inappropriate use of platelet transfusions using algorithms for defining appropriateness based on the most recent BCSH guidelines for platelet transfusions. Inappropriate transfusions were mostly because of prophylactic platelet transfusions above the recommended thresholds and the use of platelet transfusions for procedures such as bone marrow aspirate/trephine which can be safely conducted without platelet cover.¹
2. The majority, 69% (2283/3296) of the platelet transfusions, were prophylactic and 34% (782/2283) of these were considered to be inappropriate, mostly 26% (602/2283) because of transfusion above the recommended platelet count threshold but also 8% (180/2283) were administered as prophylactic transfusions to patients with myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) who did not have additional risk factors for bleeding. An additional 6% (126/2283) were indeterminate because no recent platelet count had been performed and possibly inappropriate.
3. 10% (220/2277) of prophylactic platelet transfusions were double-dose transfusions (in 6 cases the dose was not reported). The majority, 73% (161/220) of double-dose transfusions, were administered to inpatients. A recent large randomised controlled trial has shown no difference in the number of patients who had significant bleeding (WHO grade 2 or above) when they received single or double-dose platelet transfusions.²

Risk of major morbidity and mortality per 1,000,000 components issued in 2014

Total morbidity 63.5

Total mortality 5.6

	Mortality	Major morbidity	Total cases
All errors	1.1	4.5	379.2
Acute transfusion reactions	0.0	39.0	128.8
Haemolytic transfusion reactions	0.4	1.9	17.3
Transfusion-related acute lung injury	0.8	2.6	3.4
Transfusion-associated circulatory overload	2.3	13.5	34.2
Transfusion-associated dyspnoea	1.1	0.8	2.6
Transfusion-associated graft versus host disease	0.0	0.0	0.0
Post-transfusion purpura	0.0	0.0	0.4
Cell salvage	0.0	0.0	6.0
Transfusion-transmitted infection	0.0	0.4	0.8
Unclassifiable complications of transfusion	0.0	0.8	1.9
Paediatric cases	0.0	9.0	45.8

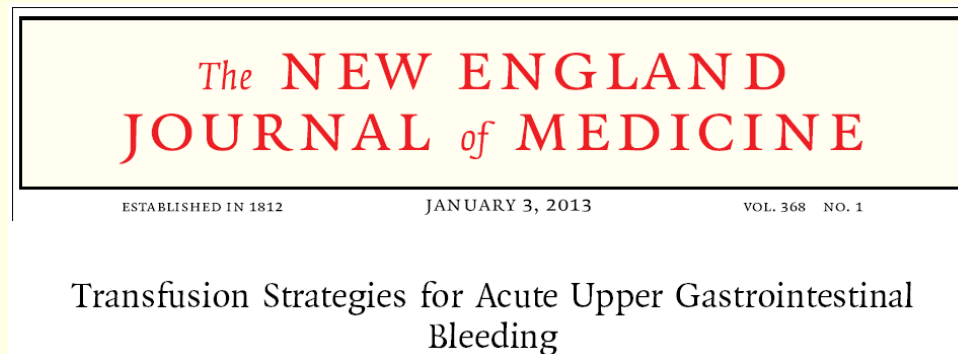
Mortality, morbidity & transfusion

Pre-operative anaemia

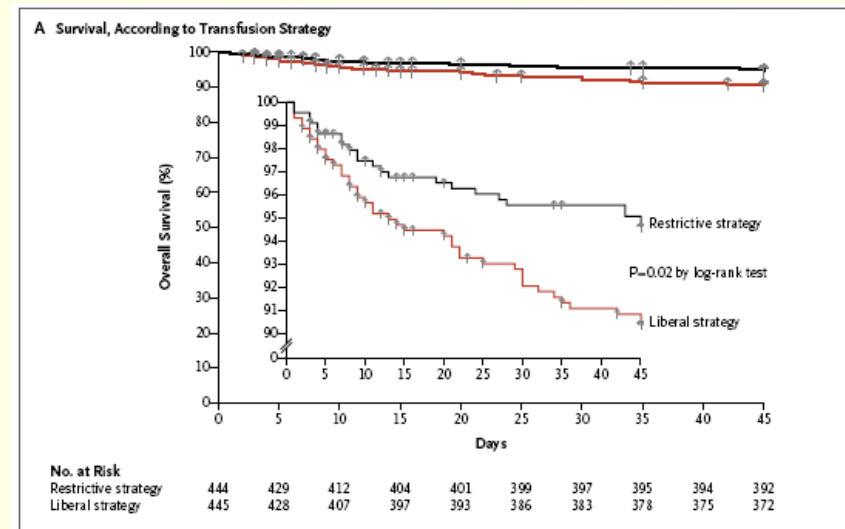
↑ morbidity & mortality ↓ quality of life and predictive for blood tx.
Correction with blood tx doesn't improve outcome and linked with ↑
↓ infection, and in cancer, relapse. Relationship - dose-dependent

Medical patients with anaemia

↑ cardiovascular events, hospitalisation, mortality, ↓ quality of life
↑ Blood tx linked with adverse outcome observational studies.



Randomised to trigger Hb 70 or 90 g/L
n=921. 45 day mortality 5% (23) v 9% (41)



**Low stocks
2015**

**Red cells
January (O-)**

**Platelets
May (A-)
June (A-)
October (A-)**

**2016
Platelets
February (A-)
March x3 (A-)**

**FFP
May MBFFP (AB)**



Blood and Transplant

URGENT COMMUNICATION - ACTION REQUIRED

An electronic copy of this fax can be found on the Hospitals & Science "Home Page" via the urgent area highlighted in red - <http://hospital.blood.co.uk/>

Date: Friday, 02 January 2015

To: All Transfusion Laboratory Managers in hospitals served by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT)

Dear Colleague,

Stocks of O RhD Negative Red Cells - Action Required

We wrote to you last week to request your support with stocks of O RhD negative red cell stocks. These have not recovered and have fallen further over the last few days. NHSBT has today launched a media appeal to encourage more donors to come forward today and over the weekend.

Action required

- 1 Please continue to conserve stocks of group O negative red cells for group O negative patients in line with established guidelines.
- 2 We are not activating the emergency blood management plan and an amber alert is not being called today, however we are asking all hospital transfusion colleagues working over the next week to ensure that they have read and are familiar with actions in these plans.

We apologise for any extra work that this will cause and thank you for your ongoing support during this challenging time. Efforts will continue to bring about an improvement at the earliest opportunity and we will ensure that you are kept regularly updated.

If you have any queries please contact an NHSBT Consultant, Customer Service Manager or Hospital Service Manager. Alternatively please contact the Customer Service Response Desk 0208 201 3107 between 08:30 to 16:30, Monday to Friday.

Please notify the consultant responsible for transfusion and your Transfusion Practitioner of this communication.

Yours sincerely,

Teresa Allen
Assistant Director – Customer Services
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Contingency Plan for Shortage

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Active major bleeding	Cancer surgery (palliative) Urgent but not emergency surgery	Elective surgery, likely to require Tx
Emergency surgery	Not life threatening anaemia	
Life threatening anaemia		

NHSBT 2016/17 Price List

Appendix 1 - National Prices
Impact of Cost Pressures, Developments and Cost Reduction Programmes
For the Financial Year 2016/17

	Baseline National Price 2015/16	Product Demand & Cost Reduction Plan				Cost Pressures & Developments		Pre-Inflation National Price 2016/17	Price Movement Pre Inflation	Inflation Funding GDP Deflator	National Price 2016/17	Price Movement Post Inflation
		Income Impact Product Demand	Fixed cost Adjustment Product Demand	DRR Adjustment	Cash Releasing Efficiency Savings	AFC Increments & Cessation of NI Rebate	Hep E Neg as Standard					
Red Cell Components												
Standard Red Cells Other Groups	120.00		5.63	-0.15	-8.70	1.44		118.22	-1.78	1.78	120.00	0.00
Standard Red Cell O Rh D negative	120.00		5.63	-0.15	-8.70	1.44		118.22	-1.78	1.78	120.00	0.00
Neonatal Red Cells	48.99		0.94	-0.03	-1.45	0.59	1.91	50.95	1.96	0.73	51.68	2.69
Frozen Red Cells, Thawed & Washed	774.98		5.63	-0.15	-8.70	9.28		781.04	6.06	11.49	792.53	17.55
Red Cells for Exchange Transfusion	185.79		5.63	-0.15	-8.70	2.23	11.45	198.25	10.46	2.75	199.00	13.21
Large Volume Neonates & Infants	146.64		5.63	-0.15	-8.70	1.76	11.45	156.63	9.99	2.17	158.80	12.16
Red Cells for Intra-Uterine Transfusion	169.49		5.63	-0.15	-8.70	2.03	11.45	179.75	10.26	2.51	182.26	12.77
Red Cell Added Value Services												
Premium for CMV -ve Red Cells	8.57					0.10		8.67	0.10	0.13	8.80	0.23
Premium for Irradiated Red Cells	8.55					0.10		8.65	0.10	0.13	8.78	0.23
Premium for Cell Washing	118.57					1.42		119.99	1.42	1.76	121.75	3.18
Premium HLA selected red cells	123.67					1.48		125.15	1.48	1.83	128.98	3.31
Platelet Components												
Platelets (1.0 ATD)	193.15		2.76		-7.93	2.31		190.29	-2.86	2.86	193.15	0.00
Neonatal Platelets	86.28		0.69		-1.98	1.03	2.86	88.88	2.60	1.28	90.16	3.88
Platelets for Intra-Uterine Transfusion	303.51		2.76		-7.93	3.64	11.45	313.43	9.62	4.50	317.93	14.42
Platelet Added Value Services												
Premium for CMV -ve Platelets	8.57					0.10		8.67	0.10	0.13	8.80	0.23
Premium for Irradiated Platelets	8.55					0.10		8.65	0.10	0.13	8.78	0.23
Premium for Cell Washing	32.50					0.39		32.89	0.39	0.48	33.37	0.87
Premium for HLA Selected Platelets	240.54		-7.09			2.88		236.33	-4.21	3.57	239.90	-0.64
Premium for HPA Selected Platelets	240.54		-7.09			2.88		236.33	-4.21	3.57	239.90	-0.64
Plasma Components												
Clinical FFP (UK sourced)	28.46		1.70		-2.46	0.34		28.04	-0.42	0.42	28.46	0.00
Paediatric MBFFP (non-UK Sourced)	178.03		0.00		-2.13	2.13		178.03	0.00	0.00	178.03	0.00
Neonatal MBFFP (non-UK Sourced)	50.02		0.00		-0.60	0.60		50.02	0.00	0.00	50.02	0.00
Cryoprecipitate												
Cryoprecipitate (UK Sourced)	31.63		0.00		-0.47	0.00		31.16	-0.47	0.47	31.63	0.00
Pooled cryoprecipitate (UK Sourced)	177.57		1.65		-6.41	2.13		174.94	-2.63	2.63	177.57	0.00
MB Cryoprecipitate-Neonatal (non-UK Sourced)	187.50		0.00		-2.25	2.25		187.50	0.00	0.00	187.50	0.00
MB Cryoprecipitate-Pooled (non-UK Sourced)	1080.48		0.00		-12.94	12.94		1080.48	0.00	0.00	1080.48	0.00
Other Components and Services												
Optimised Pooled Granulocyte	1064.67					12.75	11.45	1088.87	24.20	15.78	1104.65	39.98
Buffy Coats	68.78					0.82	11.45	81.03	12.27	1.02	82.05	13.29
Premium for HEV neg	16.73					0.20		16.93	0.20	0.25	17.18	0.45
Total (€m's) [price x volume issued]	274.3	-9.4	9.6	-0.2	-16.2	3.2	0.2	261.4	-12.8	3.9	265.3	-9.0
		(A)	(B)	(C)								
TOTAL	Closing position NCG Process 2015/16	Total Impact Product Demand Movements A + B + C				-0.1	-16.2	3.4	-12.8	3.9		-9.0
		Income Decrease / % Decrease				0.0%	-5.9%	1.2%	-4.7%	1.4%		-3.3%

Patient Blood Management

- Aim to achieve better patient outcome by relying on patients own blood rather than donor blood
- Goes beyond appropriate use as pre-empt and ↓ need for donor blood by addressing modifiable risk factors
 - Maximise patients red cell mass
 - Minimise bleeding
 - Optimise patients physiological reserve

National Blood Transfusion Committee Indication Codes for Transfusion 2013

"The indications for transfusion taken from UK national guidelines for the use of blood components. Although clinical judgment plays an essential part in the decision to transfuse, the purpose of drawing available transfusion guidelines together into one short document is to help clinicians decide when blood transfusion is appropriate and to facilitate documentation of the indication "

Indication Codes for Transfusion – an Audit Tool

The indications for transfusion provided below are taken from UK national guidelines for the use of blood components (see references). Although it is accepted that clinical judgement plays an essential part in the decision to transfuse or not, the purpose of drawing available transfusion guidelines together into one short document is to help clinicians decide when blood transfusion is appropriate and to facilitate documentation of the indication for transfusion. Each indication has been assigned a number, which may be used by clinicians when requesting blood or for documentation purposes. Specific details regarding the patient's diagnosis and any relevant procedures to be undertaken should also be provided. These are current guidelines and may change depending on new evidence.

Red cell concentrates

R1. Acute blood loss ^{4,8,9}

In patients with haemorrhage, the haemoglobin concentration (Hb) is a poor indicator of acute blood loss and estimation of blood loss may be difficult. Empirical decisions about the immediate use of red cell transfusion are required by clinicians experienced in resuscitation. The following is a guide to the likelihood of the need for blood transfusion:-

- < 30% loss of blood volume (< 1500ml in an adult): transfuse crystalloid/colloid. Red cell transfusion is unlikely to be necessary.
- 30-40% loss of blood volume (1500-2000ml in an adult): rapid volume replacement is required with crystalloid/colloid. Red cell transfusion will probably be required to maintain recommended Hb levels.
- >40% loss of blood volume (>2000ml in an adult): rapid volume replacement including red cell transfusion is required.

When normovolaemia has been achieved/maintained, frequent measurement of Hb (for example, by near patient testing) can be used to guide the use of red cell transfusion. Maintain circulating blood volume and Hb >7 g/dl in otherwise fit patients, and >8g/dl in elderly patients and those with known cardiovascular disease.

Peri-operative transfusion ²⁴

Many patients undergoing elective surgical operations will not require transfusion support if their Hb is normal before surgery. Assuming normovolaemia has been maintained, the Hb can be used to guide the use of red cell transfusion.

R2. Hb <7g/dl

- R3. Hb <8g/dl in a patient with known cardiovascular disease, or those with significant risk factors for cardiovascular disease (e.g. elderly patients, and those with hypertension, diabetes mellitus, peripheral vascular disease).

Critical Care ⁴

- R4. Transfuse to maintain the Hb >7g/dl, and >8g/dl in elderly patients and those with known cardiovascular disease.

Post-chemotherapy

- R5. There is no evidence-base to guide practice. Most hospitals use a transfusion threshold of a Hb of 8 or 9g/dl.

Radiotherapy

- R6. Limited evidence for maintaining Hb above 10-11g/dl in patients receiving radiotherapy for cervical and possibly other tumours.

Chronic anaemia ⁴

- R7. Transfuse to maintain the haemoglobin concentration to prevent symptoms of anaemia. Many patients with chronic anaemia may be asymptomatic with a Hb >8g/dl.

Fresh frozen plasma ^{6,9}

(Dose = 12 - 15ml/kg body weight equivalent to 4 units for an adult)

- F1. Replacement of single coagulation factor deficiencies, where a specific or combined factor concentrate is unavailable e.g. factor V.
- F2. Immediate reversal of warfarin effect, in the presence of life-threatening bleeding. Prothrombin complex concentrate is the treatment of choice. FFP only has a partial effect and is not the optimal treatment.
- F3. Acute disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) in the presence of bleeding and abnormal coagulation results.
- F4. Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP), usually in conjunction with plasma exchange.



References:

1. American Society of Hematology 2011 evidence-based practice guideline for immune thrombocytopenia. Blood 2011 117: 4190-4207.
2. Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (2006). Blood transfusion and the anaesthetist. www.aagb.org
3. Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (2010). Blood transfusion and the anaesthetist: management of massive haemorrhage. www.aagb.org
4. British Committee for Standards in Haematology (2001). Guidelines for the clinical use of red cell transfusion. *British Journal of Haematology* 113, 24-31.
5. British Committee for Standards in Haematology (2003). Guidelines for the use of platelet transfusions. *British Journal of Haematology* 122, 19-23.

- F5. Massive transfusion. If emergency uncontrolled bleeding and massive haemorrhage is anticipated, early infusion of FFP (15ml/kg) is recommended to treat coagulopathy. Local protocols should be followed, and the later use of FFP should be guided by timely tests of coagulation including near patient testing. Where there is anticipated large volume blood loss associated with routine surgery, guidelines suggest the PT and APTT ratio should be maintained at <1.5. This is likely to occur after replacement of 1-1.5 x the patient's blood volume.

- F6. Liver disease; there is no evidence of benefit from FFP in patients with a PT ratio of less than or equal to 1.5.

Cryoprecipitate ^{4,8}

(Dose = 2 pooled units, equivalent to 10 individual donor units, for an adult (contains approximately 3g of fibrinogen)) Cryoprecipitate should be used in combination with FFP unless there is an isolated deficiency of fibrinogen.

- C1. Acute disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC), where there is bleeding and a fibrinogen level <1g/l.
- C2. Advanced liver disease, to correct bleeding or as prophylaxis before surgery, when the fibrinogen level <1g/l.
- C3. Bleeding associated with thrombolytic therapy causing hypofibrinogenemia.
- C4. Hypofibrinogenemia secondary to massive transfusion. Maintain fibrinogen above 1g/l. A level of 1.5g/l may be required.
- C5. Renal failure or liver failure associated with abnormal bleeding where DDAVP is contraindicated or ineffective.
- C6. Inherited hypofibrinogenemia, where fibrinogen concentrate is not readily available.

Platelet concentrates ^{1,3,5,7}

(Dose = 15 ml/kg body weight for children <20kg; 1 adult therapeutic dose for adults and older children)

Bone marrow failure

- P1. To prevent spontaneous bleeding in patients with reversible bone marrow failure when the platelet count <10 x 10⁹/l. Prophylactic platelet transfusions are not indicated in chronic stable thrombocytopenia.
- P2. To prevent spontaneous bleeding when the platelet count <20 x 10⁹/l in the presence of additional risk factors for bleeding such as sepsis or haemostatic abnormalities.
- P3. To prevent bleeding associated with invasive procedures. The platelet count should be raised to >50 x 10⁹/l before lumbar puncture, insertion of intravascular lines, transbronchial and liver biopsy, and laparoscopy, to >80 x 10⁹/l before spinal epidural anaesthesia and to >100 x 10⁹/l before surgery in critical sites such as the brain or the eyes.

Critical care/surgery

- P4. Massive blood transfusion. Empirical use of platelets, according to a specific blood component ratio, is reserved for the patients with severe trauma. Aim to maintain platelet count >75 x 10⁹/l and >100 x 10⁹/l if multiple, eye or CNS trauma.
- P5. Acquired platelet dysfunction e.g. post-cardiopulmonary bypass, use of potent anti-platelet agents such as clopidogrel, with non surgically correctable bleeding.
- P6. Acute disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) in the presence of bleeding and severe thrombocytopenia.
- P7. Inherited platelet dysfunction disorders e.g. Glanzmanns thrombasthenia with bleeding or as prophylaxis before surgery.

Immune thrombocytopenia

- P8. Primary immune thrombocytopenia, as emergency treatment in advance of surgery or in the presence of major haemorrhage. A platelet count of ≥80 is recommended for major surgery and a count of >70 x 10⁹/l for obstetric regional axial anaesthesia.
- P9. Post-transfusion purpura, in the presence of major haemorrhage.
- P10. Neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia, to treat bleeding or as prophylaxis to maintain the platelet count >30 x 10⁹/l.



recently updated indication codes

NBTC Indication codes (triggers) Poster & Bookmark

Guidance for the use of Blood Components

This guidance is based on the NBTC Indication Codes for Transfusion (April 2013).

Red Cell Concentrates

Consider single unit only transfusion if anaemia reversible.

- R1 Acute blood loss in an emergency. Hb unreliable, resuscitation by experienced clinician, transfuse if blood loss >30%. When normovolaemic use Hb thresholds below.

Surgery/medical/critical care

- R2 Use Hb of <70g/l as a guide for red cell transfusion.
- R3 Cardiovascular disease – consider transfusion at Hb <80g/l or for symptoms e.g. chest pain; hypotension or tachycardia unresponsive to fluid resuscitation; or cardiac failure.
- R4 Severe sepsis, traumatic brain injury and/or acute cerebral ischaemia – use Hb <90g/l to guide transfusion.

- R5 Radiotherapy Limited evidence for maintaining Hb >100g/l.
- R6 Chronic anaemia Maintain Hb to prevent symptoms of anaemia. Hb >80g/l appropriate for many patients.
- R7 Exchange transfusion.

FFP (15ml/kg)

- F1 Coagulation factor deficiency where factor concentrate unavailable.
- F2 Reversal of warfarin if critical bleeding. Prothrombin complex concentrate is the treatment of choice.
- F3 Disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) if bleeding and abnormal coagulation.
- F4 Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura.
- F5 Major haemorrhage if emergency uncontrolled bleeding, early infusion of FFP recommended. Subsequent use to maintain PT/APTT ratio <1.5 and fibrinogen >1.5g/l (see also C4).
- F6 Liver disease (non-bleeding): no evidence of benefit for FFP, regardless of PT ratio.

Reference:

National Blood Transfusion Committee Indication Codes – An Audit Tool (April 2013)
http://www.transfusionguidelines.org/docs/pdfs/nbtc_2014_04_recs_indication_codes_2013.pdf

PTO

Platelet concentrate (1 unit = 1 adult therapeutic dose or ATD)

Bone marrow failure (BMF)

- P1 Prophylactic use if reversible BMF and count <10 x 10⁹/l. Not indicated in chronic stable BMF.
- P2 Prophylactic use if BMF with additional risk factors for bleeding e.g. sepsis if count <20 x 10⁹/l.
- P3 Invasive procedure keep count >50 x 10⁹/l, >80 x 10⁹/l if epidural, >100 x 10⁹/l if CNS or eye surgery. Transfusion prior to bone marrow biopsy is not usually required.

Critical care

- P4 Massive transfusion aim for count of >75 x 10⁹/l, >100 x 10⁹/l if multiple, CNS or eye trauma.
- P5 Acquired platelet dysfunction if non-surgically correctable bleeding.
- P6 Acute DIC and bleeding with severe thrombocytopenia.
- P7 Inherited platelet dysfunction with bleeding or pre-surgery.

Immune thrombocytopenia

- P8 Immune thrombocytopenia as emergency pre-surgery or with haemorrhage. Aim for count >80 x 10⁹/l pre-major surgery and >70 x 10⁹/l for obstetric regional axial anaesthesia.
- P9 Post-transfusion purpura if major haemorrhage.
- P10 Neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia maintain count >30 x 10⁹/l.

Cryoprecipitate. Use with FFP unless isolated fibrinogen deficiency (2 pooled units for an adult)

- C1 DIC and bleeding when fibrinogen <1g/l.
- C2 Liver disease with bleeding or pre-surgery when fibrinogen <1g/l.
- C3 Bleeding with thrombolytic therapy causing hypofibrinogenemia.
- C4 Massive transfusion maintain fibrinogen >1.5g/l.
- C5 Renal or liver failure with abnormal bleeding when DDAVP not appropriate.
- C6 Inherited hypofibrinogenemia when concentrate not available.

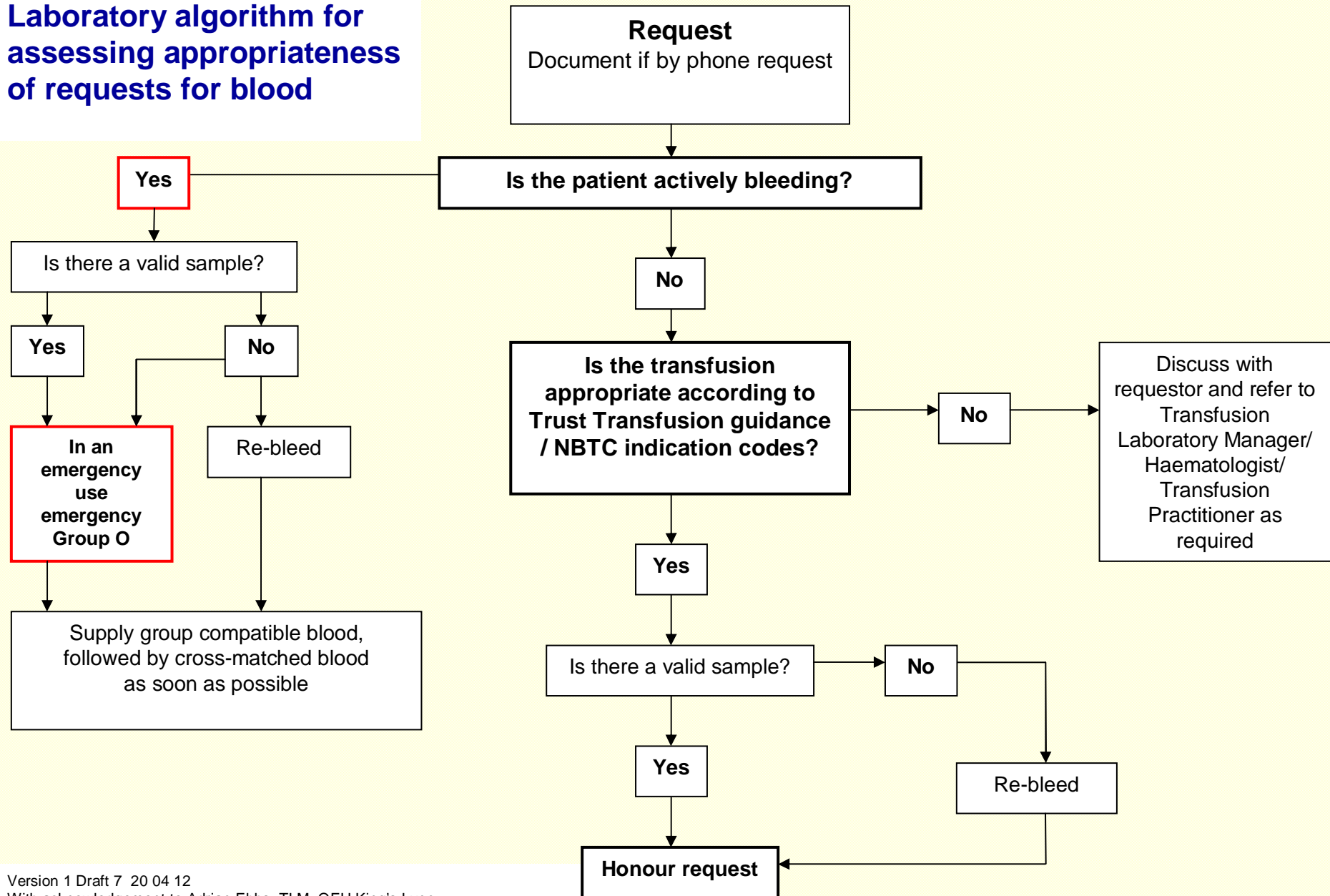
Further information on blood transfusion will be available on hospital Intranet sites or from the blood transfusion laboratory.

August 2013

BLC675.1

1314208

Laboratory algorithm for assessing appropriateness of requests for blood



Version 1 Draft 7 20 04 12
With acknowledgement to Adrian Ebbs, TLM, QEH King's Lynn

Summary

Discuss unclear requests for reasons of -

- Appropriate use
- Safety
- Potential shortage
- Cost
- Use National Blood Transfusion Committee Indication Codes and South West RTC laboratory algorithm as part of PBM