

2025 SHOT Transfusion Safety Standards: Relevant resources available

This document compiles SHOT materials and links to guidance, tools, and educational content from regulatory and professional bodies to support understanding and implementation of safety standards. It aims to provide practical support, highlight learning opportunities, and signpost related SHOT and NHS work that promotes safe practice and continuous improvement.

While we have included a wide range of SHOT and external resources, the list is not exhaustive. If you are aware of additional relevant documents, please contact us so we can keep this summary comprehensive and up to date.

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1. TRANSFUSION SAFETY		
All blood transfusions will prioritise patient safety and comply with clinical guidance and regulatory requirements.		
Intention for this standard: To safeguard every transfusion by standardising best practices, minimising risks, and ensuring the right blood is received by the right patient, every time.		
SHOT resources		External resources
SHOT transfusion safety Human factors resources SHOT incident reporting Transfusion safety and risks in the UK SHOT: Promoting a safety culture 1 SHOT Bite No.23: Civility in Healthcare SHOT Bite 24: Speaking up for safety CAS Alert Safe Transfusion Practice use a bedside checklist Webinar on accurate complete patient identification for safe transfusions in adults Safe transfusion practice checklist Ten steps in transfusion	SHOT Bite No.05a: Febrile, Allergic and Hypotensive Reactions (FAHR) – Getting the diagnosis right SHOT Bite No.05b: Appropriate investigations in Febrile, Allergic and Hypotensive Reactions (FAHR) SHOT Bite No.24: Speaking up for safety SHOT SCRIPT, SCRIPT surveys and resources United Kingdom Transfusion Laboratory Collaborative (UKTLC) SHOT Bite No.25: Safety-I and Safety-II Holistic approach to safety PAUSE checklist for the transfusion laboratory Good practice guidance document for managing indeterminate ABO blood groups to support safe decision-making SHOT Bite No 20: Incorrect Blood Component Transfused – Specific Requirements Not Met (IBCT-SRNM)	NHS Long Term Workforce Plan Health workforce – NHS Scotland Blood Health National Oversight Group - BHNORG Workforce planning – NHS Wales Workforce Planning: Workforce Review Reports – Northern Ireland Safe staffing improvement resources for specific settings – NHS England UKTLC Standards MHRA Blood: authorisations and safety reporting MHRA: Blood regulation and safety BSH Guidelines on the investigation and management of acute transfusion reactions Patient Blood Management

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Webinar on accurate and complete patient identification for safe transfusion in paediatrics Transfusion-Associated Circulatory Overload (TACO) Cumulative Data and associated resources Pre-transfusion TACO risk assessment SHOT safety alert: TACO A-E Decision Tree to facilitate decision making in transfusion	Near miss cumulative data and associated resources Incorrect blood component transfused cumulative data and associated resources SHOT Bite No.23: Civility in Healthcare Good practice guidance document for managing indeterminate ABO blood groups to support safe decision-making SHOT Bite No 8: Massive haemorrhage - delayed transfused Avoidable, delay and under/over transfusion cumulative data and associated resources	National External Quality Assessment Service (NEQAS) JPAC: Transfusion guidelines
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2. TRANSFUSION INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) AND EQUIPMENT	
<p>All IT systems and equipment to support safe vein-to-vein transfusion practice are configured, validated, implemented and utilised correctly to their full functionality.</p> <p>Intention for this standard: To ensure reliable, secure, and smart transfusion systems by leveraging technology and equipment that enhance safety, efficiency, and traceability.</p>	
SHOT resources	External resources
SHOT UK SCRIPT SHOT Bite No.13: Information Technology in Transfusion – Highlights and Lessons SHOT IT webinar SCRIPT IT Downtime SHOT Human Factors and Ergonomics (HFE)	BSH IT guidelines BSH Validation and qualification guideline UKTLC Standards BSQR NHS Digital NHS England - Digital Transformation Digital Healthcare Scotland Digital Healthcare Wales Digital Healthcare Northern Ireland Good Practice Guide

3. SUPPORTING STAFF TO WORK SAFELY	
<p>Adequate numbers of appropriately trained and supported staff are available to deliver safe transfusions, prioritising staff wellbeing and professional development.</p> <p>Intention for this standard: To create a supportive environment where staff feel empowered, equipped, and valued in delivering safe, high-quality care.</p>	
SHOT resources	External resources
SHOT Bite No.23: Civility in Healthcare SHOT Bite No.24: Speaking up for safety SHOT Bite No.25: Safety-I and Safety-II Holistic approach to safety	UKTLC standards Guide to the preparation, use and quality assurance of blood components General Medical Council Professional Standards Nursing Medical Council Standards for Registered Nurses Health and Care Professions Council Standards Emergency preparedness, resilience and response (EPRR) NHS Long Term Workforce Plan Health workforce – NHS Scotland Workforce planning – NHS Wales Workforce Planning: Workforce Review Reports – Northern Ireland Safe staffing improvement resources for specific settings – NHS England

4. STAFFING EDUCATION AND TRAINING	
<p>Healthcare organisations ensure that all staff are trained, competent and have access to appropriate development opportunities to support a systems-approach to safe transfusion practice.</p> <p>Intention for this standard: To build confident, competent teams by making safety education and continuous training a cornerstone of everyday practice.</p>	
SHOT resources	External resources
Human factors resources UPTAKE competency assessment SHOT e-learning Learning from day-to-day events Learning from excellence in transfusion	UKTLC Standards Statutory and mandatory training (StatMand) programme – NHS England NHS Scotland Protected Learning Time General Medical Council Professional Standards Nursing Medical Council Standards for Registered Nurses Health and Care Professions Council Standards BSH 2016 Transfusion for Fetuses, Neonates and Older Children Transfusion Training Hub/National Blood Transfusion Committee

5. SAFETY CULTURE	
<p>A just, restorative, learning safety culture is promoted, supported, and embedded across all levels of healthcare organisations to ensure safe transfusions and learning from all events.</p> <p>Intention for this standard: To embed a culture of continuous learning and openness that turns every safety insight into an opportunity for improvement.</p>	
SHOT resources	External resources
<p>SHOT and UKTLC safety culture survey in transfusion laboratories in the UK (2023)</p> <p>SHOT: Promoting a safety culture 1</p> <p>SHOT Bite No.23: Civility in Healthcare</p> <p>SHOT Bite 24: Speaking up for safety</p> <p>SHOT Human Factors and Ergonomics</p>	<p>NHS England: Safety culture: learning from best practice</p> <p>NHS Staff Council Health, Safety and Wellbeing group: Safety Culture</p> <p>AHSN network: Creating the conditions to develop and nurture a culture of safety</p>

6. PATIENTS AS SAFETY PARTNERS	
<p>Patients are informed, supported and involved as ‘partners’ in their own care to facilitate shared decision-making and safe transfusions.</p> <p>Intention for this standard: To work with patients as active safety partners by fostering open communication, shared responsibility, and a culture of trust in healthcare decisions.</p>	
SHOT resources	External resources
SHOT: Information for patients My Transfusion app – information for patients My Transfusion app – information for healthcare professionals Consenting patients prior to transfusions SHOT: Driver diagram to help improve transfusion consent practices	NHS: Duty of candour Care Quality Commission guidance on duty of candour JPAC: Consent for Blood Transfusion JPAC: Consent for Blood Transfusion - Guidance for Healthcare Practitioners in the UK JPAC: Transfusion Information for Patients NHSBT Patient Blood Management/patient information leaflets Blood transfusion: Information to help patients prepare for treatment NHS tests and treatments/blood transfusion BHNOC (Wales): Information for patients and their families, carers and guardians NHS Scotland: patient information leaflets SaBTO: Blood transfusion: patient consent

7. HAEMOVIGILANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT	
<p>Healthcare organisations have systems in place to identify, trend and learn from transfusion-related safety events including near misses, and implement effective improvement actions.</p> <p>Intention for this standard: To protect patients and donors by driving safer transfusion practices through vigilant monitoring, timely response, and continuous learning.</p>	
SHOT resources	External resources
Reporting to SHOT Human Factor Resources SHOT Definitions Document SHOT Bite 6: SHOT Reporting FAQ's SHOT Bite No. 22: SHOT or NOT Guide to reporting PSIRF and impact on haemovigilance in England SHOT Laboratory Reporting Guide Learning from transfusion related deaths	WHO - A guide to establishing a national haemovigilance system MHRA Blood: authorisations and safety reporting GMP Inspectorate: blood compliance report assessment process MHRA: Blood regulation and safety NHS England: Emergency preparedness, resilience and response (EPRR) NHS England: Core Standards for Emergency Preparedness Resilience and Response (EPRR) BSH Guidelines on the investigation and management of acute transfusion reactions

8. GOVERNANCE	
<p>Effective transfusion governance systems are in place with adequate oversight to enable organisations to actively manage and improve the safety and quality of transfusion care.</p> <p>Intention for this standard: To facilitate effective transfusion governance within healthcare organisations that ensures patients receive safe and high-quality care.</p>	
SHOT resources	External resources
SHOT National Patient Safety Alerts SHOT Participation and benchmarking data	JPAC HTC chairs toolkit JPAC transfusion committees in the UK Blood safety and Quality Regulations (2005) Section 4 – Authorisation of a blood establishment Blood bank compliance report guidance National Patient Safety Alerts BSH -transfusion Guidelines The Inquiry Report / Infected Blood Inquiry NICE Blood Transfusion Guidance NHS England Governance, Patient Safety and Quality Webpage National Blood Transfusion Committee NHS England Guidance on Good Governance and Collaboration National Services Scotland Corporate Governance Framework Public Health Wales Clinical Governance Framework

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	NHS Wales Governance e-manual HSC Public Health Agency NI Corporate Governance Framework
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