

SHOT Newsletter July 2026



SHOT Symposium 2026



2026 Annual SHOT Symposium

Friday 10th July 2026

Birmingham
Hilton Metropole
B40 1PP

08:00-17:00



Scan the QR code for more information and to register

The excitement is building for SHOT Symposium 2026!

We are delighted by the fantastic response to this year's SHOT Symposium. Registration is now closed, and we would like to thank everyone who has secured their place. We are looking forward to welcoming delegates from across the transfusion community for what promises to be an inspiring and engaging day. With an excellent programme of expert speakers, thought-provoking presentations and valuable networking opportunities, we're excited to celebrate 30 years of SHOT together. We look forward to seeing you in Birmingham on Friday 10 July!

Registration now closed



Alongside the Symposium, we're excited to announce the release of the **2025 Annual SHOT Report**, featuring the latest data, key findings and updates. Keep an eye on the **SHOT website** on the day of the Symposium for its publication.

**STRENGTHENING
HAEMOVIGILANCE,
DRIVING SAFER
TRANSFUSION
PRACTICE**



New Essential Standards for Safe Transfusion in Clinical IT Systems published

Supporting safer digital transfusion practice across the UK

The **SCRIPT Group** has published the new **Essential Standards for Safe Transfusion in Clinical IT Systems**, providing a clear framework of mandatory safety requirements for IT systems that support transfusion practice.

The standards are designed to strengthen patient safety by setting out essential requirements for safety-critical transfusion workflows, including:

- Patient identification and barcode scanning
- Sample labelling and blood component ordering
- Blood administration and transfusion event management
- System interoperability and traceability
- Audit trails, governance and decision support aligned with national guidance



Developed collaboratively with experts from across the UK transfusion community and endorsed by all four UK National Transfusion Committees, these standards provide practical guidance for system suppliers, healthcare organisations and transfusion teams to support safer, more reliable digital transfusion pathways. A gap analysis tool is being drafted and will be released soon

Find out more and access the standards [here](#)

New Resource: Optimising learning from excellence and everyday events

Supporting a positive safety culture through reflective learning

SHOT has published a new resource, **optimising learning from excellence and everyday events**, to help healthcare teams learn from both incidents and examples of excellent everyday practice. The resource encourages structured reflection on **what works, why it works, and how good practice can be shared**, helping organisations strengthen a positive safety culture, support continuous improvement, and enhance patient care.

The guidance can be used during team discussions, governance meetings, and educational sessions to promote meaningful learning across all areas of practice.

Read more and access the resource [here](#)



UK Cell Salvage Advisory Group (UKCSAG) launches new advisory role

The **UK Cell Salvage Advisory Group (UKCSAG)** has transitioned from an **Action Group** to an **Advisory Group**, reflecting its evolving role in supporting patient blood management and cell salvage practice across the UK.

The group will continue to:

Support patient blood management and blood conservation strategies.

Strengthen UK-wide collaboration in cell salvage.

Provide expert advice and guidance to healthcare professionals.

Promote informed patient choice and optimise blood health.

To find out more about the **UKCSAG** and its work, visit their new [webpage here](#):



New SHOT email signature images for 2026

A new selection of **email signature images** are now available on the SHOT website for **2026**.

These eye-catching graphics have been created to help promote key transfusion safety messages in everyday communications. They are ideal for adding to your email signature, and training materials, to raise awareness of good transfusion practice and share important safety messages with colleagues. An example image is shown below. The full collection, including the latest 2026 designs, is available to download from the SHOT Resources page.

SHOT TRANSFUSION SAFETY STANDARDS



Browse and download the email signature images [here](#)

Spotlight on the UK Transfusion Laboratory Collaborative (UKTLC)

2026 marks the 20th anniversary of the United Kingdom Transfusion Laboratory Collaborative (UKTLC). Established in 2006 in response to SHOT haemovigilance data, the UKTLC was formed to improve patient safety by reducing errors in hospital transfusion laboratories through collaboration, guidance and the sharing of best practice.

What does the UKTLC do?

The UKTLC brings together experts from leading UK transfusion organisations to develop national standards and practical resources that support safe, high-quality transfusion laboratory practice. Its work focuses on:

- Developing and maintaining the UKTLC Minimum Standards.
- Supporting education, training and staff competency.
- Promoting safe staffing and workforce planning.
- Encouraging best practice and continuous quality improvement across UK transfusion laboratories.

How does SHOT work with the UKTLC?

As a founding member of the UKTLC, SHOT works closely with the collaborative by sharing haemovigilance data and learning from transfusion incidents. This evidence helps shape UKTLC standards, guidance and resources, ensuring they address current risks and support improvements in laboratory safety across the UK.

Resources available

The UKTLC webpages provide a range of practical resources, including:

- UKTLC Minimum Standards
- Gap Analysis Tool
- Capacity Planning Guidance
- National survey reports
- Additional guidance and resources to support implementation of best practice.

Twenty years on, the UKTLC continues to play a vital role in supporting transfusion laboratories, promoting collaboration and driving improvements in patient safety throughout the UK.



Find out more and explore the resources [here](#)

Updated FAQs now available

SHOT has updated two of its frequently asked questions (FAQ) resources to provide additional clarity and practical guidance for healthcare professionals.

TACO Safety Alert FAQs

The **Transfusion-Associated Circulatory Overload (TACO) Safety Alert FAQ** has been updated to support implementation of the National Patient Safety Alert and answer common questions about TACO risk assessment and prevention. The resource complements the wider TACO guidance available from SHOT and helps organisations embed safer transfusion practice. This update also reflects the decommissioning of the Red Cell Dosage Calculator (RCDC) following changes to UK medical device regulations. The FAQ now signposts alternative red cell dosing guidance and resources to continue supporting safe transfusion practice.

SHOT Transfusion Safety Standards FAQs

The **SHOT Transfusion Safety Standards FAQ**, available within the Safety Standards Toolkit, has also been updated. The document addresses questions raised by stakeholders on topics including implementation, compliance, governance and the practical application of the standards. As new questions arise, the FAQ will continue to be reviewed and updated to support organisations implementing the SHOT Transfusion Safety Standards.

Access the TACO Safety Alert FAQs [here](#)
And the SHOT Transfusion Safety Standards FAQs [here](#)

New SHOT Bites: Staff fatigue and transfusion safety

SHOT has published two new **SHOT Bites** on **staff fatigue and transfusion safety**:

SHOT Bite No. 38a: *Staff fatigue and transfusion safety – A Hidden Risk*

SHOT Bite No. 38b: *Staff fatigue and transfusion safety – Practical Solutions*

These bite-sized resources highlight the impact of fatigue on transfusion safety and provide practical advice to help individuals and organisations recognise and reduce fatigue-related risks.

Read the new SHOT Bites [here](#)

STAFF FATIGUE IS A HIDDEN SAFETY RISK

ORGANISATIONS SHOULD:

**RECOGNISE,
ESCALATE,
MANAGE**

SHOT
Serious Hazards of Transfusion