Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) – Information for Patients

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Background

SHOT is the United Kingdom independent, professionally-led haemovigilance scheme. Since 1996 SHOT has been collecting and analysing anonymised information on adverse events and reactions in blood transfusion from all healthcare organisations that are involved in the transfusion of blood and blood components in the United Kingdom. Where risks and problems are identified, SHOT produces recommendations to improve patient safety. The recommendations are put into its annual report which is then circulated to all the relevant organisations including the four UK Blood Services, the Departments of Health in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and all the relevant professional bodies as well as circulating it to all of the reporting hospitals. As haemovigilance is an ongoing exercise, SHOT can also monitor the effect of the implementation of its recommendations.

What is the purpose of SHOT?

SHOT collects information on transfusion reactions and adverse events from all healthcare organisations in the United Kingdom that are involved in the process of blood transfusion. SHOT investigates the contribution of deficiencies in the transfusion process to serious adverse patient outcomes.
SHOT identifies areas where laboratory and clinical practice need to be improved and makes appropriate recommendations for changes that will improve outcomes for patients.

SHOT provides authoritative data to inform policy in blood transfusion, and supports the production of clinical guidelines in blood transfusion.

SHOT undertakes research, studies and audit in the area of transfusion safety, and this may be solely, collaboratively or by commission.

SHOT provides and encourages education on all facets of transfusion safety and the management of transfusion reactions as relevant to all personnel involved in the blood transfusion process.

SHOTs main objectives are to:

- Collect and analyse information on transfusion reactions and adverse events from all healthcare organisations in the United Kingdom that are involved in the process of blood transfusion
- Provide authoritative data and recommendations based on these data, which are disseminated widely
- Investigate the contribution of deficiencies in the transfusion process to serious adverse patient outcomes
- Identify areas where laboratory and clinical practice need to be improved and make appropriate recommendations for changes that will improve outcomes for patients
- Provide and encourage education on all facets of transfusion safety and the management of transfusion reactions as relevant to all personnel involved in the blood transfusion process
- Undertake research, studies and audit in the area of transfusion safety, and this may be solely, collaboratively or by commission

SHOT Structure and Funding

SHOT is funded by the 4 UK Blood Services via the UK Transfusion Forum.

NHS Blood & Transplant (NHSBT) currently ‘hosts’ SHOT and provides resources such as office space, and services such as IT, human resources and finance support.

SHOT consists of the SHOT office team, the Steering Group (SG) and the Working Expert Group (WEG).

Steering Group

The Steering Group (SG) provides professional ownership and strategic direction, monitors the performance of SHOT and is accountable to the UK Forum through the Medical Director for the use of resources and management of the budget. Membership of the Steering Group will consist of nominated representatives of the Royal Colleges and other professional bodies. The Steering Group will always include
- SHOT Medical Director (MD)
- National Co-ordinator for Infectious Diseases
- SHOT Operations Manager

Plus a representative from each of the following.

- Health Protection Agency
- Consultant specialist in Transfusion Microbiology
- BCSH Transfusion Task Force
- CMO’s National Blood Transfusion Committee (NBTC)
- UK Transfusion Forum

It is also desirable that membership of the Steering Group includes a representative of each of the following:

- Institute of Biomedical Science
- British Blood Transfusion Society
- NHS Confederation
- Royal College of Anaesthetists
- Royal College of Pathologists
- British Society for Haematology
- Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- Royal College of Surgeons
- Royal College of Physicians
- Royal College of Nursing
- Royal College of Midwives
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
- Intensive Care Society
- College of Emergency Medicine
- British Society of Gastroenterology
- Faculty of Public Health
- Defence Medical Services
- Scottish Clinical Transfusion Advisory Committee
- Clinical Advisory Group, Wales
- Northern Ireland Regional Transfusion Committee
- A lay member
- Co-opted representatives from other groups as appropriate

Working Expert Group

The WEG incorporates the concept of an Expert Panel and all members of the WEG are an integral part of the Steering Group.

The WEG is responsible for:

- Analysing the data that have been reported to SHOT and for writing the annual SHOT report
- Developing an annual work programme to be approved by the SG based on agreed strategic objectives
- Advising the SG on the functionality of the scheme and any new initiatives in development
In addition to the production of the annual data, members of the WEG will, together with members of the SHOT office team and in conjunction with the Publications Sub-group, produce papers for publication in scientific journals, on behalf of the SG.

The WEG will initiate research, studies and audits alone and in collaboration with other bodies some of which may be ‘task and finish’ and some of which will be ongoing projects.

The WEG will be responsible for ensuring that data produced by SHOT are published and disseminated appropriately to fulfil the stated purpose of SHOT in improving the safety of the transfusion process and standards of hospital transfusion practice.

The WEG will regularly review definitions and questionnaires and submit proposed changes to the Steering Group for endorsement.

How are SHOT data processed?

The hospital trust providing your care will submit the information regarding a suspected transfusion reaction or adverse event via the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) serious adverse blood reactions and events (SABRE) online reporting system. The relevant data will then be transferred to Dendrite Clinical Systems Ltd electronically using secure data transfer methods.

Dendrite will act as guardians for your data and will store it securely. There will be no personally identifiable data included other than gender and date of birth. The Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) has confirmed that they regard date of birth, gender and a procedure (incident) as sufficiently anonymous to maintain patient confidentiality.

The information collected allows SHOT to analyse adverse events and reactions in blood transfusion and learn from these. SHOT produces an annual report with recommendations for improved practice. These annual reports do not contain the details of individual patients. Annual reports are available via the SHOT website www.shotuk.org. No data which could identify somebody will be shared with anyone, or used for purposes other than those required to perform the analysis.

Who will benefit from SHOT data?

SHOT’s mission is to improve patient safety in blood transfusion, which has benefits for patients, and all those working within blood transfusion.

SHOT aims are to:

- Improve standards of hospital transfusion practice
- Educate users on transfusion hazards and their prevention
- Aid production of clinical guidelines
- Inform policy within the UK Blood Services
- Inform national policy on transfusion safety within the UK
- Inform Europe about transfusion safety in the UK
How reliable are SHOT data?

As SHOT is a large national database some items are bound to be inaccurate or missing. Review of data submitted is performed by both SHOT clinical and laboratory incident specialists, as well as by members of the WEG to try and ensure data is as complete and accurate as possible.

Once data has been added and the report completed on the SHOT database, only SHOT staff will be able to access, check and change it. Dendrite will keep a record of all changes that are made.

How we keep your information safe?

Data protection and privacy are an important part of SHOT so no patient identifiable information will ever be requested or included in any data published by SHOT.

SHOT and Dendrite will make sure the data collected is subject to strict rules of confidentiality as laid down by Acts of Parliament, including the Data Protection Act 1998, Health and Social Care Act 2001 and GDPR 2018.

How long will we keep your information?

By collecting a large amount of information, it is easier to identify cumulative trends and monitor improvements.

If the current arrangements for running this haemovigilance analysis through SHOT should end, the data will be deleted or securely transferred to a new provider.

Can I opt out of SHOT?

Reporting to SHOT is professionally mandated, and reporting of serious adverse events and reactions to the MHRA is mandated by law.

The anonymity associated with SHOT reporting means it would not be possible to identify or remove data on a particular individual.

Contact details

Queries should be directed to SHOT via shot@nhsbt.nhs.uk or 0161 423 4208.