



Highlight Report – TP Special Interest Group (SIG): June 2025

- **BBTS Website** has been updated and some of your saved links may no longer work. Here is the updated link to the TP page: [BBTS - Transfusion Practitioners](#)

- [BBTS Conference](#) > Harrogate > 13th-16th October 2025.

The conference is a great opportunity to network with TPs and other professionals working within the field of transfusion, whilst also enhancing your knowledge - please do come along!

- We are delighted to announce **Wendy McSporran** is the winner of the newly launched BBTS Transfusion Practitioner Award. Wendy will be the first speaker within our TP SIG session at conference.
- The second speaker slot was awarded to the **Welsh Blood Service**. Sarah Beuschel will be presenting Exercise Elucid; improving major incident responses in the absence of a major incident.
- The **South-West RTC** will be presenting last, and they will showcase a TP led collaborative project that is currently taking part in their region.
- We can also reveal that the **BBTS Gold Medal Award** will be presented to **Rachel Moss** for her exceptional and long-standing service to the society and the UK Blood Transfusion services – congratulations Rachel!
- If you would like to write an article for **BBTS Bloodlines magazine** on behalf of the TP SIG group, please get in touch. The latest issue was published in May and the TP SIG article was written by **Carla Dawson**: The SNBTS Clinical Transfusion Dashboard: The road to appropriate blood use?
- Work is ongoing to develop the **National TP Framework** in England. Following the Padlet review, soundbites will be circulated later in the year and feedback will be requested from all TPs. Please email [Jennifer Rock](#) for further information.
- Please use the [BBTS TP forum](#) if you have anything you would like escalated to the wider TP networks for discussion/feedback. Current topics on the forum include i) **use of BadgerNet** within the maternity services and the associated risk of manual blood group entry and ii) **acceptance of pre-hospital pre-transfusion samples** taken by our air ambulance crews.
- **Contact details and further information** can be found on our dedicated webpage: [BBTS | Transfusion Practitioners](#) | or by emailing the Chair: Karen.Mead@nbt.nhs.uk



THE SNBTS CLINICAL TRANSFUSION DASHBOARD: THE ROAD TO APPROPRIATE BLOOD USE?



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Why was a clinical transfusion dashboard needed?

In 2010, SNBTS created the Scottish Transfusion Epidemiology data mart (STED). STED originally provided data on transfusion events related to surgical procedures and was later extended to include medical indications in 2021. Prior to 2024, this information was available to health boards via static annual reports, or via formal request, not supporting timely review of surgical and medical transfusion activity. In addition, SNBTS was observing an increase in both surgical and medical blood use since the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, a need for an interactive tool to understand the clinical need for transfusion and increase accessibility of updated STED to health boards, without the need for formal request, was identified. It was hoped that this would provoke discussion and quality improvement initiatives in the appropriate use of blood. Following on from the success of the SNBTS Blood Bank Dashboard, that enables laboratories to monitor blood stock management practices, it was decided to develop a similar dashboard but for clinical transfusion events.

Development

The SNBTS Clinical Transfusion Dashboard was developed by the SNBTS Transfusion Team in collaboration with SNBTS Supply Chain Analytics as a tool to present STED data to clinical teams. The SNBTS Transfusion Team provides transfusion subject matter expertise to health boards in Scotland and supports in delivery of national transfusion initiatives. The team includes: Transfusion Practitioners of multidisciplinary background; Transfusion Support Assistants and lead specialists in haemovigilance, education and research. A key aim for the transfusion team during the project was to ensure that the dashboard provided information that would be useful to clinical teams and of sufficient detail to inform changes to practice, if considered appropriate. For this reason, dashboard prototypes underwent multi-disciplinary clinical user testing throughout various stages of the build, to inform end design and functionality.

Implementation

The SNBTS Clinical Transfusion Dashboard went live to users in January 2024 after being launched by the SNBTS Transfusion Team at the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Committee (SNBTC) annual education meeting in Edinburgh. The dashboard was promoted at Hospital Transfusion Teams and committees throughout Scotland by Transfusion

In 2024, the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) launched the SNBTS Clinical Transfusion Dashboard. Designed as an interactive tool to support appropriate blood use in Scotland, the dashboard enables clinical teams to look at transfusion activity over time in relation to a specific medical diagnosis or surgical procedure.

Practitioners within the SNBTS Transfusion Team. The team developed a user guide to help users in gaining access to and navigating the dashboard. The SNBTS Transfusion Team continues to promote the use of the dashboard in the health boards they support.

What information is included in the SNBTS Clinical transfusion dashboard?

The SNBTS Clinical Transfusion Dashboard is comprised of four core pages:

Surgical blood Use – Number of patients transfused, number of procedures where transfusion occurred, and the average units transfused for a given surgical procedure.

Medical blood Use – Number of patients transfused, number of units transfused, and average units transfused per patient for a given medical diagnosis.

Iron deficiency anaemia – Built to support Hospital Transfusion Committees to measure their performance against the SNBTC agreed target to transfuse red cells to less than 20% of patients with a primary diagnosis of iron deficiency anaemia.

Crossmatch to transfusion ratio – Displays what is ordered for surgical procedures vs what is transfused and the likelihood of



transfusion for that procedure.

A tool for appropriate blood use?

The dashboard provides a high degree of filtering functionality, enabling clinicians to filter graphs and tables by health board, hospital, hospital size, blood component, surgical procedure and medical diagnosis. This allows clinical teams to monitor their transfusion activity and compare this both nationally and to sites of similar size, supporting recommendation 7(a) of the Infected Blood Inquiry to benchmark transfusion performance. As surgical and medical activity is displayed over time, via quarterly updates, the dashboard acts as a simple quality improvement tool, allowing the effect of initiatives or changes in service on transfusions to be visualised. Dashboard pages and data can be downloaded directly to PowerPoint and Excel, respectively, to inform audit, benchmarking and service development and to enable variation in transfusion practice to be examined in more detail. Understandably, individual patient data cannot be accessed via the dashboard, however, can be provided by SNBTS upon formal request if required for a local quality improvement initiative.

What is next for the SNBTS Clinical

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Transfusion dashboard?

The SNBTS Transfusion Team, in collaboration with clinicians and biomedical scientists from around Scotland, are in the process of developing a national surgical blood ordering framework. Utilising transfusion data from the SNBTS Clinical Transfusion Dashboard, the framework aims to facilitate review and update of maximum surgical blood ordering schedules

(MSBOS) using a standardised data driven approach. The aim is to reduce unnecessary pre-transfusion sampling, ordering of blood components and overall waste of transfusion resources. To support this work two new dashboard pages are currently under development. These pages will allow easy adoption of the approach outlined in the framework and provide a measurement tool to aid in identification and response to variation in surgical blood ordering practices.

Are we on the right road to appropriate blood use?

From providing the patient rationale for a national increase in alloantigen testing to providing the impact of increasing cell salvage capacity in district general hospital on red cell transfusions, the SNBTS Clinical Transfusion Dashboard has been an invaluable tool for understanding why patients in Scotland receive transfusion. However, perhaps the greatest success is that for the first time, clinical teams are able to see their blood use over time by an accessible, contemporaneous and applicable means. It is this visualisation of practice that has empowered teams to start having conversations around blood use and identify areas for improvement, and ultimately ask themselves is their blood use appropriate?