

BRITISH BLOOD TRANSFUSION SOCIETY

Enterprise House | Manchester Science Park |

Lloyd Street North | Manchester | M15 6SE

Tel: 0161 232 7999 | Fax: 01612327979

Email: bbts@bbts.org.uk | Web: www.bbts.org.uk



BRITISH BLOOD TRANSFUSION SOCIETY

SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE IN TRANSFUSION SCIENCE PRACTICE INFORMATION SHEET

The BBTS Specialist Certificate in Transfusion Science Practice is a distance learning scheme run by the British Blood Transfusion Society (BBTS). It is open to both members of the BBTS and members of other appropriate professional bodies such as the IBMS. It is intended that the BBTS Specialist Certificate qualification can be used as evidence for moving from a *qualified* to a *specialist practitioner* grade. The scope of the Specialist Certificate includes the work undertaken both in hospital transfusion laboratories, i.e. Immunohaematology, and in blood (transfusion) centres e.g. component production, donation grouping and microbiology testing.

The Specialist Certificate course contains three modules:

- A common module in Transfusion Science Practice that has to be studied by all candidates and two options:
 - A module for Hospital Blood Bank Practice & Immunohaematology
 - A module for Donation Testing and Component Processing

Full details of content for each module can be found in the Study Guide.

The Training Package

The training package is available from the BBTS office priced at £45 for BBTS members and £75 for non-members and contains:

- ❖ The recommended course textbook, 'An Introduction to Blood Transfusion Science and Blood Bank Practice', fifth edition.
- ❖ The Study Guide, including a copy of the Training Standards
- ❖ Information on the examination format

To enable you to have sufficient knowledge to pass the examination the training package contains details of the modules with background and essential knowledge, and the principles and practice you need to understand. Additionally, the course text book provides some of the information you will require plus a guide to further reading if that topic is not fully covered in the text book. Also included is a list of books and web sites that we feel all transfusion scientists should have access to, together with some key references, especially for guideline information.

The Examination

The examination for the Specialist Certificate in Transfusion Science Practice normally runs in May and November of each year at locations throughout the UK. The exact dates of each examination are published in 'Bloodlines', the BBTS newsletter. Exam application forms can be found in the Education Resources section of the BBTS website.

The examination is open to state registered applicants, members of the BBTS and members of other appropriate professional bodies, e.g. IBMS, BATB or BSHI. It is recommended applicants have at least two year's transfusion or components production laboratory experience (this can be within a hospital or a blood centre) prior to taking the examination as experience should be equivalent to having completed 400 hours of study. The examination fee is £100 for candidates who are BBTS members and £130 for candidates who are not BBTS members. Anyone wishing to re-sit the examination must pay a fee of £50.

The examination will consist of three papers, all taken on the same day.

- ❖ *Paper 1 – one hour.* Multiple Choice Question paper covering basic knowledge in Transfusion Science Practice.
- ❖ *Paper 2 – one hour.* Short answer papers covering basic knowledge in Transfusion Science Practice.
- ❖ *Paper 3 – two hours.* Data interpretation and case studies paper covering basic knowledge in Transfusion Science Practice and a choice of questions on either Hospital Blood Bank Practice & Immunohaematology or Donation Testing & Component Processing.

There will not be a practical examination as technical competence will be gained during the two years of working in a laboratory and will be recorded in your personal development portfolio. The written examination does not include essay writing, but is designed to assess your knowledge of Transfusion Science Practice with short answer papers and some case studies, covering the sort of problems you might encounter in any hospital blood bank or blood centre. These too will require only brief answers to a series of questions.

To purchase the training package or to register for the examination please complete the relevant form and send it with a cheque for the correct amount to the BBTS office. Please make cheques payable to 'British Blood Transfusion Society'. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the BBTS office.

You can also purchase the training packs online with a credit or debit card by going to www.eventsforce.net/cert. Please note, there is a 2.8% surcharge for paying with a credit or debit card.