

## Freedom of Information Act Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

A copy of your trust's blood transfusion policy or standard operating procedure document(s) that outline who is authorised to prescribe and authorise blood products, specifically including Advanced Clinical Practitioners (ACPs) or equivalent non-medical roles.

Information on whether ACPs are permitted to authorise blood transfusions independently or under supervision.

Details of governance structures related to transfusion practice, including the identity or role of the trust's transfusion lead and whether ACPs have representation on the trust transfusion committee.

Any training, competency, or credentialing requirements specified by the trust for ACPs or other non-medical staff to authorise blood transfusions.

If possible, please provide electronic copies **of relevant policies or documents**.

1 Blood Transfusion Policy - Pre administration policy (pg 12) explains who can authorise blood components and says the following

### **4.2.4. Prescribing Blood Products-see attached doc**

- Blood can be prescribed by a Doctor or authorised non-medical staff e.g. midwife or nurse with the appropriate NMA training / competencies completed. This includes the organisational competency based package for prescribing blood and blood products. Competencies are recorded on Oracle Learning Management (OLM). The requirement for training / completed competencies includes Locum / agency staff.
- Red cells (this may be expanded to include Platelets following approval by the Hospital Transfusion Team) can also be prescribed within a controlled framework for select patient groups by an appropriately trained and approved senior nurse providing the following are adhered to:

The nurse must:

- o Work in an area of clinical practice where making the clinical decision to transfuse and authorising blood components is relevant.
- o Have the Trust's written permission to undertake the NHSBT Non-Medical Authorisation of Blood Components course (a programme for senior nurses and midwives who are working towards making the clinical decision and providing the written instruction for blood component transfusion as part of service development).

- o Have an identified clinical mentor to support learning in practice.
  - o Have notified the Hospital transfusion Team. (Please note that the above will be verified by NHSBT with the Trust via our Transfusion Practitioner)
  - o Have completed the organisational competency based package for prescribing blood and blood products. Competencies are recorded on Oracle Learning Management (OLM).
- 2 ACP's will come under this and once they have completed the appropriate training are able to authorise blood transfusions independently.
- 3 Trust transfusion lead – Dr Youssef Sorour Consultant Haematologist / Associate Medical Director for Patient Safety. Senior Nurses in the following areas are classed as members of the Hospital Transfusion Group (previously committee). (ACP's would be included in this)
  - Senior Nurse Critical Care Directorate
  - Senior Nurse Medical Directorate
  - Senior Nurse / Theatre Manager Surgical Directorate
  - Senior Nurse Haematology / Oncology

The HTG is open to all to attend if they have an issue/query with anything transfusion related.

The HTG reports to the Patient Safety Review Group (PSRG) and the Patient Safety Group (PSG) (previously committee)
- 4 The North East and Yorkshire Region of Transfusion Practitioners runs 4 Non-Medical Authorisation courses per year for Nurses/ACP's. ( I am a facilitator on this). This is a one day course followed by completion of a nationally recognised portfolio. Delegates have to have a mentor who is at Consultant level and they are responsible for signing off the portfolio. Once this has been signed off it is sent to me to look through and to take to the HTT for approval if it is felt that knowledge and understanding have been evidenced well. Blood transfusion e learning modules for medics (which contains standard 2 x modules that all nurses complete and additional consent and transfusion reaction modules) also needs to be completed prior to attending the course.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Requests for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days from the date of this response, and should be addressed to [d.wraith@nhs.net](mailto:d.wraith@nhs.net).

If you remain dissatisfied after the internal review, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO can be contacted at:

Our Ref: 405  
June 2025

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113  
Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>