

We Value Every Drop



Meeting the Transfusion Needs
of Patients in Scotland



FROM DONOR TO PATIENT

Part of NHS National Services Scotland, the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) is the specialist provider of transfusion medicine in Scotland supplying high quality blood, tissues, products and services. With transfusion centres in Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow, SNBTS works with communities, hospitals and professionals to ensure that the donor's gift is used wisely and effectively for the benefit of patients.



Scotland needs 5,000 blood donations every week just to keep up with demand. However, SNBTS is about more than just blood. We also collect and distribute heart valves, tendons and bones for use in cardiac and orthopaedic surgery together with blood stem cells from patients and donors to support Bone Marrow Transplant Units throughout Scotland.

To meet all these demands, SNBTS works in a very exact, scientific discipline and we know that people are vital to our success. It is people that make us work. And together we meet the transfusion needs of patients in Scotland.



In addition to collecting and preparing blood for transfusion, SNBTS clinical laboratories operate five blood banks in hospitals that transfuse half of the blood used in NHS Scotland. Organ transplantation is supported through our network of laboratories that perform tissue typing and other matching tests to ensure that patients have the best chance of a fully matched transplant.

THE DONOR'S GIFT

Blood transfusion and tissue donation are all about people helping others. Our dedicated, loyal donors donate their blood and tissues for the benefit of patients, helping to save lives on a daily basis. It is our responsibility to make sure that blood and tissues are available when patients need them and we work hard to ensure that freely given blood and tissues are transferred from donor to patient wisely and effectively. Safety is paramount in everything we do and we adhere to strict regulations which ultimately produce benefits to patients.

We continually develop and strengthen the unique partnerships we have built up with NHS colleagues, donors and patients. We can only achieve this by relying on trust at all levels and we encourage donors, staff and patients to play their part in this life enhancing process.

SOUND SCIENCE, SAFETY AND QUALITY

While our work is based on sound science, safety and quality are at the heart of everything that we do and although blood transfusion is very safe by modern clinical standards, it is not zero risk.

SNBTS is committed to providing an effective service following high standards of safety and quality and safeguarding high levels of care by creating an environment in which excellence in clinical care flourishes. We constantly review our services, respond to the demands placed on us by new regulations and initiate new developments to further improve patient and donor care.

Indeed, SNBTS is committed to the highest possible standards in everything we achieve, continually improving every aspect of our work to ensure that we have the capacity and flexibility to respond to changing needs. This applies not only to our focused research and development, but also to modern ways of organising and operating the organisation.



STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

Innovation and continuous improvement are central if we are to continue to supply the highest quality blood, tissue, products and services needed in Scotland. SNBTS undertakes ground breaking scientific research in key areas related to blood component quality, safety and supply, to ensure that patients get access to new and improved products, technologies and therapies.

A vital part of this is ongoing transfusion education and we deliver training to doctors, nurses and all other colleagues involved in the transfusion process to ensure transfusion practices can be constantly modified and improved.



SNBTS has a long history of excellence in many aspects of blood transfusion and we constantly strive to build on these achievements to ensure that our products, services and systems meet the needs of donors and patients. Having blood available at all times is essential and SNBTS works to ensure that patients in Scotland, wherever they are treated, have the very best of transfusion care.

www.scotblood.co.uk

National Blood Donor Helpline
0845 90 90 999

This publication can also be made available in large print, braille (English only), audio tape and in different languages. If you would like further information, please contact the Public Affairs Department on 0141 357 7752.

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