

From the Acting Chief Medical Officer
Dr Elizabeth Mitchell



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

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HSS(MD) 39/2006

To: Chief Executives of Trusts for distribution to:
Emergency Planning Leads
Medical Directors
Heads of Blood Banks and Transfusion
Committees
Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Blood
Transfusion Service
Chief Executives of Health and Social Services
Boards for distribution to:
Emergency Planning Leads
Directors of Public Health

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Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD) 39/2006
Date: 4 September 2006

Dear Colleague

DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED PLAN FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF BLOOD (RED CELL COMPONENT) SHORTAGES

Please find enclosed a copy of an Integrated Plan for the management of blood (red cell component) shortages. The plan sets out an integrated approach to managing blood shortages, particularly red cell components. Once implemented arrangements will ensure that during situations which have caused a shortage

- Blood continues to be available for all essential transfusions to patients equally across Northern Ireland; and
- Overall usage is reduced to ensure the most urgent cases receive the supply which is available.

The plan has been developed by the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service in conjunction with Northern Ireland Regional Transfusion Committee and endorsed by the Northern Ireland Advisory Committee on Blood Safety.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

Trusts are asked not only to note the contents of the plan but to implement them within their organisation. In order to achieve this, an Emergency Blood Management Group should be established within each Hospital Trust as outlined. The Group will be required to formulate arrangements including identifying clinical priorities, to manage appropriate use of blood in each Alert phase as outlined in the plan. Implementation of the Plan would be seen as part of the range of emergency planning measures taken within the organisation.

I thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Mitchell

ELIZABETH MITCHELL (DR)
Acting Chief Medical Officer

Enc

cc: Andrew Elliott
Johny Wright for NI Advisory Committee on Blood Safety