

Practical Introduction to Transfusion Science (PITS)

The course is for

This course is specifically designed for:

- Healthcare/biomedical scientist trainees
- Healthcare/biomedical scientists from multi-disciplinary pathology laboratories who require basic transfusion science laboratory knowledge/skills
- Healthcare/biomedical scientists with limited knowledge of blood transfusion or who are returning to work from a career break

Structure

5 days in total (but not 5 consecutive days) consisting of:

- Pre-course learning (released 2 weeks prior to online block)
- A 3-day online teaching block - digital learning and virtual classrooms
- Two days practical session in an NHSBT teaching laboratory

Aim of the programme

- Perform basic ABO and RhD grouping using the appropriate techniques and interpret results and data
- Perform antibody screening and identification, and correctly identify samples containing an irregular antibody
- Perform a serological crossmatch and identify incompatible units as well as those suitable for transfusion
- Have an increased understanding of the underpinning knowledge required to carry out these techniques

Programme content

This blended learning course includes digital packages, virtual classrooms, on-line tutorials, cases with data interpretation and practical experience. The following topics are covered:

- Red cell antigens and antibodies
- Basic ABO, Rh and other major blood group information
- Antibody screening and basic antibody identification methods
- Pre-transfusion testing guidelines
- Basic 'blood group serology' techniques
- Provision of blood components
- Hazards of transfusion

Assessment – the course will include reviews of learning and quizzes plus a final assessment after the practical sessions have been completed

Pre-requisites for attendance

Attendees should be working in a hospital pathology laboratory or NHSBT laboratory and have a basic knowledge of laboratory procedures and health and safety.

Pre-course material

Pre-course material will be available 2 weeks prior to the 3-day block. You will receive:

- A link to a basic transfusion science learning module to be completed prior to attendance plus additional reading
- A printable resource provided to accompany activities and case studies covered in online sessions
- The programme timetable

Course Times

3-day block: 09.30 – 16.00 via Zoom and Brightspace
2 day practical: 10.00 – 16.00 NHSBT centre

Further information...

To book a place on this course visit [The Learning Centre](#).

For enquires, email scientificandclinicalrai@nhsbt.nhs.uk