

# Blood Health National Oversight Group (BHNOC)

## Blood Shortage Group (BSG)

### Terms of Reference (ToR)

## 1. Purpose

The Blood Health National Oversight Group (BHNOC) Blood Shortage Group (BSG) was established in response to ongoing challenges within the blood supply chain. These have been particularly evident over the last 12 – 18 months with both the Welsh Blood Service (WBS) and other UK services facing significant challenges securing supply to meet demand.

This resulted in the establishment of a group at a national level, comprising of key stakeholders, to facilitate management of the blood supply chain including the appropriate use of blood. Building on established structures and recognising that BHNOC already comprised much of the required membership, the establishment of the BSG, was agreed with reporting to BHNOC.

The purpose of the BSG is to work with key stakeholders to ensure the appropriate use of blood using patient blood management principles. If a pre-amber alert or escalation to an amber or red phase / alert does occur that this is effectively communicated and managed within the Health Boards (HBs) using relevant shortage documentation<sup>1</sup>.

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## 2. Aim

The aim of the BSG is to escalate, communicate and manage any challenges to the blood supply chain in collaboration with other key stakeholders to avoid blood shortages. This can be applied to any blood components but excludes blood products which would be managed by the Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIg) Group. The BSG will ensure any shortages are effectively managed and communicated to clinical colleagues ensuring blood is given to those patients most in need.

## 3. Governance

The BSG is accountable to BHNOC and follows recognised governance pathways defined in the BHNOC ToR<sup>2</sup>.

## 4. Chair

The BSG group will be chaired by current BHNOC chair. A Deputy chair will also be selected from within the group's membership.

## 5. Membership

BHNOC Chair
Director Welsh Blood Service (WBS)
Consultant with BHP responsibility/Medical Director WBS
BHNOC Work Stream Leads
Blood Health Team (BHT) Lead
BHNOC Rep for Transfusion Lab Manager Forum
Welsh Government Representative

The representatives identified in the membership table above will be defined as core members of the BSG. Other members may be co-opted as necessary onto the group at the agreement of the Chair.

## 6. Meeting Frequency

The BSG will meet on an ad-hoc basis and will depend on:

- Information regarding current and predicted stock levels both within in Wales and rest of the UK. This will include analysis of demand, collection activity, availability of mutual aid.
- Any critically identified issues within Wales that could impact on national supply
- Extended alerts or threats to the blood supply with limited ability to improve national stocks.

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- Meetings will be convened by the WBS Director or nominated Deputy in liaison with the BHNOC Chair when one of the criteria above has been reached.
- Extraordinary meetings may be convened at the discretion of the WBS director.

#### Administrative Support

BSG is hosted by the WBS, which supports the administration of the meetings. These arrangements allow for organisation of meetings; documenting and maintaining records of all meetings held; and effective communication on behalf of the committee.

#### 7. Documentation Required

- Notes of the preceding meeting & action log
- Documentation supporting agenda items e.g. resilience data, demand data, wastage and issuing data etc.

#### 8. Remit

- The BSG will work with BHNOC work stream leads and other key stakeholders strategically across Wales to support the blood supply chain both within the transfusion community and across the wider clinical setting
- Work with relevant large blood user clinical groups to support individualised patient blood management in appropriate care pathways; this will encompass developing practices to support safety and minimise the avoidable use of blood transfusion
- If escalation to a pre-amber, amber or red alert does occur that this is effectively communicated and managed within the Health Boards using relevant shortage documentation and established routes of escalation
- Ensure any shortages are effectively managed and communicated to clinical colleagues ensuring blood is given to those patients most in need.

#### 9. References

<sup>1</sup> WBS Blood Shortage plan: [https://wbs-intranet.cymru.nhs.uk/bht/wp-content/bht-uploads/sites/4/2020/08/WBS-Red-Cell-Shortage-Plan\\_July-2020\\_final.pdf](https://wbs-intranet.cymru.nhs.uk/bht/wp-content/bht-uploads/sites/4/2020/08/WBS-Red-Cell-Shortage-Plan_July-2020_final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> BHNOC TOR: <https://bhnog.wales.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/BHNOC-Approved-ToR.pdf>