

# Newsletter

April 2024

## Blood Health National Oversight Group (BHN OG) Conference 2024

The BHN OG 2024 virtual conference was held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The Conference entitled *'The Blood Health Plan: Making it work for you'* was a resounding success showcasing the updated version of the BHP and the varied work that is undertaken in collaboration with the Health Boards across Wales to enact it.

More than 90 delegates from across Wales joined the Conference to listen to the 20 presenters talk on a range of topics, with a keynote introduction from the Chief Medical Officer for Wales, Sir Frank Atherton.

The BHN OG would like to thank presenters, contributors and delegates for their interest and enthusiasm throughout the day to make the Conference a success. Congratulations in particular go to the four inaugural poster category winners, with specific mention to Debra Evans and Tracey Williams Jones, Thoracic Nurse Specialists, and Professor Ira Goldsmith, Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon, for the overall winning poster – *'Improving the IV Iron Pathway for Pre-operative Patients referred from other Health Boards for Thoracic Surgery at Morriston Hospital in Swansea Bay University HB'*.

All presentations, posters and a full report on the conference can be found at:

<https://bhnoq.wales.nhs.uk/events/>



# Release of the revised NHS Wales Blood Health Plan (BHP)

The NHS Wales Blood Health Plan (BHP) has been revised and re-issued for 2024-2027. Continuing with the 3 main strategic aims listed below, the BHP advocates the principles of patient blood management and prudent healthcare, focussing on the importance of blood health and the appropriate use of blood components in a clinical setting.

The plan is owned by NHS Wales and has been developed in collaboration with key stakeholders across the clinical and scientific transfusion community advocating a system wide approach to ensure a safe and sustainable blood supply for patients.

*'Right blood, Right time, Right patient.'*

The three strategic aims of the Plan are:

1. Supporting individuals to manage their blood health and wellbeing avoiding unnecessary intervention
2. Use evidence and data to inform planning, improve practice and reduce variability
3. Place safety and quality at the core of care reducing inappropriate use and promoting innovation

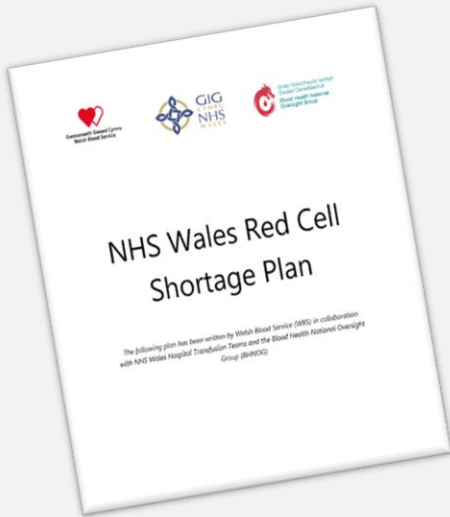


## NHS Wales Blood Health Plan

To view the 2024 Blood Health Plan which is available on BHNOG website please [click here](#)



# NHS Wales Red Cell Shortage Plan



The NHS Wales Red Cell Shortage Plan was issued on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024. It has been developed to ensure that the Welsh Blood Service and Health Boards across Wales work collaboratively to adopt an integrated approach to managing the red cell supply chain, avoiding shortages and minimising any impact on patients as far as possible. This updates the Welsh Government integrated plan (2009). The Plan is available on the BHNOC website at <https://bhnog.wales.nhs.uk/> please [click here](#) to access.

## Farewell to Lee Wong

And finally... the BHNOC would like to wish Lee who is retiring this month after 43 years of dedicated work for the WBS our very best wishes for a happy & well-deserved retirement.

For the past 6 years, Lee has been at the forefront of groundbreaking practice in her role as National Blood Health Advisory Team Lead, spearheading initiatives that have advanced the work of the BHNOC immeasurably.

**Diolch Lee**



Quote from Dr Brian Tehan, Chair of BHNOC:

*“We are very proud of the progress we in Wales have made with BHNOC and the Blood Health Plan. This success is of course that of many individuals and institutions, but Lee has been pivotal to this. We and I are very sad she’s leaving but wish her a fulfilling and happy retirement, well-earned as she and we look back at all she has achieved.”*



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This newsletter has been distributed on behalf of the Blood Health National Oversight Group.

Please feel free to forward to colleagues or other interested parties.

For further information or updates please contact the Blood Health Team: [WBS.bloodhealthteam@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:WBS.bloodhealthteam@wales.nhs.uk)

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