**Transfusion News Spring 2016**

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|  | There is a national drive within Blood Transfusion to encourage initial prescription of a: **single unit of blood for stable, non bleeding adult inpatients**. The patient should be assessed and haemoglobin checked after each unit to see whether further transfusion is required.This will help ensure we use our donated blood safely and appropriately |

**Hepatitis E Negative Blood Products**

* From March 2016, Hepatitis E negative blood products are being provided for certain groups of patients.
* Hepatitis E is increasingly common in the UK, it is transmitted in undercooked pork and shellfish but also in blood products.
* Most people who contract Hepatitis E don’t even realise they have it and clear the infection within 2 months. In immunosuppressed people however the virus may become persistent leading to the possibility of cirrhosis
* These patients now need to receive blood screened as Hep E negative, please write this on the Blood Transfusion Request form.
* In an emergency, if no suitable Hepatitis E negative blood is available, the laboratory will ask if the patient can wait for Hep E negative blood
* If not able to wait, transfuse non screened blood and observe for clinical signs of hepatitis, if symptoms send Hep B serology and PCR
* If suggests acute infection seek further advice.

**Patients who require Hepatitis B negative blood products**

***Patients awaiting or with a solid organ transplant***

* Patients awaiting solid organ transplant from 3 months prior to date of planned elective organ transplant or from the date of listing.
* Patients who have had a solid organ transplant, for as long as they take immunosuppressive treatment.

***Patients awaiting or with haemopoeitic transplants***

* Patients with acute leukaemia – from diagnosis (unless/until a decision is made not to proceed with stem cell transplant).
* Patients awaiting allogeneic stem cell transplant – from 3 months prior to the date of planned transplant and up to 6 months following transplant, or for as long as the patient is immunosuppressed.