

## Guidance for Practice Supervisor/ Assessor to support undergraduate nurses in safe transfusion practice

The purpose of the guide is to highlight the learning needs of the undergraduate student nurses which will increase their knowledge and understanding around many elements associated with safe transfusion practice aligned to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (2018) Future nurse: standards of proficiency for registered nurses.

The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service Transfusion Team (SNBTS TT) has developed a national transfusion education programme for undergraduate student nurses which is accessible across all four disciplines: nursing, child health, mental health and learning disabilities. The programme is accessible to students via Turas Learn with the mandatory elements required to be completed prior to practice placement. There are two key standards which are required to be met by the student which is aligned to the undergraduate degree programme. The Higher Education Institute (HEI) curriculum will stipulate when the learning needs are required to be met i.e. year one, two or three (please check local policy).

The training needs of the future registrant across all disciplines now include:

Undertaking venepuncture and blood sampling, interpreting common and abnormal blood profiles

Managing and monitoring blood component transfusion

**The mandatory components for managing and monitoring a blood component transfusion consist of the following:**

LBT: safe transfusion practice (or LBT: safe transfusion practice for paediatrics for child health students)

LBT: Acute transfusion reaction

LBT: Consent for transfusion

Introduction to safe transfusion practice: undergraduate nurses' preparation for practice lecture (this can be either a face to face session or accessed via Turas Learn). The equivalent is available for child health students.

Consent for transfusion video for neonates and paediatrics (child health students)

Blood transfusion pre-administration check and monitoring animation video

Blood transfusion escape room

Additional learning objectives which the student is encourage to complete whilst on practice placement include:

ABO serology workbook

Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) reflective case study

Additional resources include:

Five step guide to the double independent bedside checking procedure

Patient information leaflets

**The mandatory components for undertaking venepuncture and blood sampling, interpreting common and abnormal blood profiles consist of the following:**

LBT: safe transfusion practice

LBT: safe transfusion sampling video

Venepuncture escape room

Additional resources include:

SHOT reflective sampling case study

SHOT bite which relates to the two sample group check policy

Please note: the transfusion venepuncture programme includes the specific transfusion learning needs of students who will be developing skills and knowledge around the principles of safe pre-transfusion sampling practice. The learning for the actual venepuncture procedure will be delivered by the HEI and aligned to the programme of study.

As a Practice Supervisor/Assessor you may want to discuss the transfusion learning opportunities which may be available during the duration of the practice placement with the student at the start. For example, is there an opportunity for the student to spend time in a day unit or day hospital, outpatient department (for pre-transfusion sampling experience), theatre, transfusion laboratory etc? This may help the student to widen their knowledge and experience in many areas of clinical practice relating to patient safety and the transfusion process. Are the students able to spend some time with staff in specialist roles such as the haematology nurse specialist or the Transfusion Practitioner? There are many roles within the supervisory team who will be supporting the student whilst on placement. Consider these roles and how can they provide the learning opportunities for students to meet their learning objectives?

The student will always be under supervision, and will be able to participate in the double independent bedside checking procedure in alignment with your local Health Board policy and HEI guidance. When students are involved in the pre-administration check: a double independent check is required -meaning that the Practice Supervisor/Assessor will be required to complete an independent pre-administration check as well as the student nurse completing their own independent check under supervision.

We would suggest that in your transfusion teaching in the clinical area you discuss with the student the potential implications of misidentification of the patient, errors which occur in the transfusion process, multidisciplinary roles which contribute to ensuring the right blood is given to the right patient, safely.

These are only examples, it may be that the student identifies other aspects for discussion but the most important thing is to get the student thinking about potential risks throughout the transfusion process and the implications of patient safety and safe transfusion practice.

The student nurse can participate, under supervision, in the monitoring of the patient throughout the blood transfusion.

For further information please contact the local Transfusion Practitioner.