The Red Cell Network
Haemoglobinopathy Coordinating Centre

The Red Cell Network November 2025 e-bulletin

This bulletin has been developed to help all subscribers to The Red Cell Network (TRCN) website to keep abreast of the latest updates. Each topic is linked to the relevant webpage where you can learn more and share amongst peers and colleagues.

We hope you find this useful.

Aged 11-18 with Sickle Cell Disorder? Join us at Emirates Stadium

The Red Cell Network is thrilled to be hosting a fun event for young people, which combines training with Arsenal coaches and engaging workshops!

Tuesday 30th December 2025

12pm – 2:30pm

Arsenal Hub, N7 7BY

To express your interest for the event, please scan the QR code or click on this link.

Blood group genotyping extended until March 2026

NHS Blood and Transplant have announced that the extended blood group genotyping programme has been extended until 31st March 2026. The programme aims to improve blood typing and therefore matching, to ensure safer transfusions, to reduce alloimmunisation and to improve outcomes for patients. If you want to read more about the programme, NHSBT have a comprehensive list of Frequently Asked Questions here. If you want to have your extended blood group genotype done, get in touch with your clinical team.

New sickle cell documentary released

A powerful new hour long documentary by Chanel Jay sheds light on the everyday realities of living with sickle cell disorder. Through powerful and emotional stories, we hear from: Samantha, a mother who tragically lost her daughter Siobhan to sickle cell complications, Nicole, who lives with sickle cell and shares the struggles that come with it, and Sickle Cell Society. This film explores the pain, resilience, and hope of those affected, while shining a light on why awareness and support are urgently needed. Watch the film on YouTube here.

Red Cell CNS highlight: Sophie Briggs

Sophie Briggs, a red cell clinical nurse specialist at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals (NNUH) was recently featured in the Trust's staff communications for her work establishing and developing the Trust's new red cell service.

In this feature, Sophie described her role: "My job is to establish the red cell service for both adults and paediatrics as it is new to the hospital. Day to day I help coordinate care and communicate with the wider multidisciplinary team. I monitor patients' bloods and medications to ensure they have enough stock and to check for side effects, make care plans for schools and monitor pain management plans".

She added "I enjoy the people most about working in haematology. I work alongside some very skilled and knowledgeable consultants and nurses who have such good rapport with patients, and I am constantly learning from them. I love being able to work with children and adults as they are very different and it is nice to see them transition, build confidence and grow".

Thank you Sophie for all of the great work you do!

NCL Red Cell Community Team now offering vaccinations!

The North Central London Red Cell Community Service are offering vaccinations to sickle cell and thalassaemia patients, as NHS England have issued a "flu-jab SOS" as the worst of the winter season approaches. "It is vital that the public use the over 2.4 million available appointments we have running next week to stamp out this early wave of flu cases and help shield themselves ahead of winter," said Chief Nursing Officer Duncan Burton. With flu season upcoming, take this opportunity to get vaccinated.

If you are based in North Central London, complete the referral form or contact the community team on ncl.redcellteam@nhs.net for more information. Otherwise, contact your local healthcare provider to arrange a vaccination.

. First meeting of Rare Inherited Anaemia PPVG

In November, The Red Cell Network held our first patient and public voice group (PPVG) for those affected by rare inherited anaemias. We have long standing PPVGs for sickle cell disorder and thalassaemia, and this new group ensures that individuals with RIA and parents of affected children can share their experiences and shape improvements in care across the network.

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uclh.info.redcellnetworkhcc@nhs.net