

Clinical Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

WORK-UP / ROUTINE STEM CELL TRANSPLANT SPECIMENS

SETTING	Stem Cell Transplant and Cellular Therapy Programme, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre
FOR STAFF	Medical, nursing and administrative staff working in stem cell transplant
PATIENTS	Stem cell transplant patients and related stem cell donors

1. Indications for Practice

- As part of pre-transplant work-up procedures, stem cell transplant (SCT) patients and related donors require blood tests to be performed to ensure they are suitable to undergo treatment or donate cells, respectively.
- Throughout the SCT process, patients must have regular routine bloods tests and other specimens analysed to monitor their progress, as inpatients and outpatients.

2. Authorised Personnel / Training Required

Any member of qualified nursing or medical staff assessed as competent to take blood samples from a central venous access device.

Any member of staff assessed as competent in venepuncture can take blood for testing peripherally.

Any member of staff can send specimens to the correct laboratory.

3. Procedure

3.1 Routine specimens

For a summary of **work-up bloods needed for patients and related donors**, and where to send the samples, refer to [Appendix 1](#).

For a summary of all **inpatient** bloods/specimens routinely sent, and where to send the samples, refer to [Appendix 2](#).

For a summary of all **outpatient** bloods/specimens routinely sent please refer to [Appendix 3](#)

Except those being sent to NHS Blood and Transplant Filton and Group and Save requests, all samples should be requested using the ICE system. Prior to taking blood samples, blood bottle labels should be printed, samples labelled and placed in the appropriate coloured bag.

Group and Save requests are made via the hospital transfusion request form and this should also be completed prior to taking samples.

Please note: all NHSBT requests and group and save requests must be labelled by hand

3.2 SENDING SAMPLES TO NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT (NHSBT)

Samples sent to the NHSBT are:

- Work-up cross-match bloods (RCI form)
- H&I samples (HLA typing and HLA antibodies) (3C)
- Chimerism studies (3C)

All NHSBT samples should be requested using **paper forms** as they are not on the ICE system.

Forms can be found via

<https://hospital.blood.co.uk/diagnostic-services/histocompatibility-and-immunogenetics/hi-test-request-forms/>

or [RCI Test Request Form - Hospitals and Science - NHSBT \(blood.co.uk\)](#)

Samples should be sent via the Pathology Laboratory in the BRI. These are then placed in the NHSBT transport box by blood transfusion laboratory staff. This allows a record to be kept of all samples sent. This also ensures that samples are delivered to the NHSBT Filton centre and **NOT** Southmead Hospital.

If a sample is urgent, it can be sent by taxi.

- In paed, within reception hours a taxi can be ordered via main reception (ext [REDACTED] and/or Ocean Unit (Ext [REDACTED]). The children's hospital has an account with [REDACTED] (details kept with reception or Ocean) padded envelope and printed stickers for delivery address kept on Ocean.
- In adults it is authorised by the requesting consultant. Request a taxi via [REDACTED] Web Booker and in the 'journey type' select 'urgent sample'. Leave the blood sample in a padded envelope labelled with the correct address and a named person who is anticipating taking receipt of the package at the BHOC Reception desk.

Note: Samples should be **hand labelled** by the person taking the sample and have a minimum of **three points of identification** e.g. name, date of birth and hospital number (do not use sticky labels on the bottles as samples will be rejected).

3.3 SENDING SAMPLES TO UK HEALTH SECURITY AGENCY (FORMERLY PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND)

UKHSA are based at the Infection Sciences Laboratory, Pathology Sciences Building, Southmead Hospital.

Samples sent to the UKHSA are:

- Viral respiratory PCR swabs
- Viral PCR and serology bloods¹

¹UKHSA undertake mandatory infectious disease testing on our behalf. This is performed under the a Third Party Agreement, under the authority of our HTA Licence, number 22538. Refer to [SOP 2.15 Related Donor selection, counselling and assessment](#) for detailed information on the testing required for related stem cell donors.

Routine BMT Bloods are transported via the Pathology lab at UHBW.

Urgent samples should be sent

- For BRHC: via taxi (details as above) to Infection sciences Laboratory- Southmead
- For BHOC – contact the virology lab on x [REDACTED].

3.4 SENDING BCR-ABL SAMPLES

BCR-ABL samples can be tested via the Pathology lab in the BRI
Patients from referral centres require their samples to be sent to the relevant laboratory that has previously analysed samples. Must be sent and tested within 48 hours.

REFERENCES	External documents
RELATED DOCUMENTS AND PAGES	Appendix 1 Pre-Stem Cell Transplant Patient and Donor Bloods Checklist Appendix 2 Routine Stem Cell Transplant Inpatient Bloods Checklist Appendix 3 Routine Stem Cell Transplant Outpatient Bloods Checklist SOP 2.2 Coordinating Patient and Related Donor Work up for Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplant SOP 6.10 Chimerism Studies Following Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplant
AUTHORISING BODY	Paediatric Haematology, Oncology and BMT Quality Assurance Forum (Quaf) / Adult BMT IEC Quality Group
SAFETY	No additional safety concerns
QUERIES AND CONTACT	To contact BMT Co-ordination: For paediatric patients Tel: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] For adult patients: Tel: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] To contact UKHSA: Ext: [REDACTED]

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