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**Blood and Transplant**

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Blood Management System Pilot Begins to Help Hospitals Track and Improve Patient Outcomes**

**WASHINGTON (February 1, 2012)** A trial is under way that could give hospitals across England and North Wales the ability to track their use of blood in patients and to compare blood use against practice elsewhere.

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) will use America's Blood Centers' Appropriate Inventory Management (AIM) system at four English teaching hospitals in order to collect data about the clinical use of blood transfusions.

"We hope that the trial will provide valuable insights into how blood is used in hospitals while maintaining patient confidentiality. This new source of information will be used by hospitals to help maximize the use of blood and minimize unnecessary transfusions," said Lynda Hamlyn, Chief Executive of NHSBT. "It will also help NHSBT to improve how it plans and collects sufficient amounts of blood so that together we can continue to ensure a sustainable blood supply for the patients of the future."

The new software – dubbed AIM II – tracks the usage of blood and provides an analysis of patient outcomes. The trial is also designed to demonstrate that the software can be integrated and function well over multiple IT systems.

"Safe and efficient use of blood is the top priority of both transfusion programs and hospitals," said America's Blood Centers' Chief Executive Officer Jim MacPherson. "This new software will allow NHSBT to continue to serve as one of the world's best and most visionary blood programs."

The trial follows a recent announcement by the Department of Health which acknowledged NHSBT's success in improving blood management processes but called for continued focus on ensuring that the variation in current blood transfusion practice is understood and, where appropriate, minimized.

The four hospitals participating in the English trial are: The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust, and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

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#### **About America's Blood Centers**

Founded in 1962, America's Blood Centers is North America's largest network of community-based, independent blood programs. Recognized by the U.S. Congress for its critical work in

patient care and disaster preparedness and response, the federation operates more than 600 blood donor centers providing nearly half of the U.S., and a quarter of the Canadian blood supply.

These blood centers serve more than 150 million people and provide blood products and services to more than 3,500 hospitals and healthcare facilities across North America. America's Blood Centers' U.S. members are licensed and regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Canadian members are regulated by Health Canada.

**About NHSBT:**

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is a joint England and Wales Special Health Authority. Its remit includes the provision of a reliable, efficient supply of blood and associated services to the NHS in England and North Wales. It is also the organ donor organisation for the UK and is responsible for matching and allocating donated organs.

**For further information about the AIM II trial taking place at NHSBT, please contact the NHSBT press office on 0117 969 2444 or [pressoffice@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:pressoffice@nhsbt.nhs.uk). For out of hours enquiries please call our pager service on 07659 133583.**