



Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS)

PENROSE PUBLIC INQUIRY

FINAL REPORT STATEMENT

SNBTS wishes to express its sympathy and sincere regret for the personal tragedies that patients and their families have experienced as a result of emerging infections and before effective safety measures could be put in place.

SNBTS has always been driven by the commitment to improve and save lives and works tirelessly to provide effective treatments for all patients who require life-saving blood products. We extend our thanks to all of those members of staff who have supported SNBTS in the past, and who continue to do so.

Blood safety is the organisation's first priority and blood testing and processing systems today provide very high levels of safety.

We believe that the best approach to blood safety is a combination of measures: making sure that the blood product itself is as safe as possible; ensuring the transfusion process to the bedside is secure; and that each patient must receive the appropriate blood product in the right amount at the right time. To do this SNBTS not only complies with Government policies and national standards, but is also inspected regularly by independent regulators.

Donating blood is a safe process and the donor selection guidelines are in place to ensure it is safe to donate and safe for patients to receive the donor's gift.

The NHS relies on the blood donations of people throughout Scotland and we must ensure that there is enough blood, tissues and cells available when patients need them. We would like to thank our thousands of donors as we couldn't do this without them donating blood on a regular basis. It is vital that they continue to come forward to support SNBTS and patient care.

For more information on SNBTS, please visit www.scotblood.co.uk

Issued 25th March 2015

Contact Details:

Lynne Kidd
Head of Communications
National Services Scotland
Tel. 07775 818466

Kirstin Thomson
Communications Manager
National Services Scotland
Tel. 07920 531476