

Framework for Developing a Memorandum of Understanding

between

NHS Blood and Transplant and The Anthony Nolan Trust

Introduction

The Anthony Nolan Trust and NHS Blood and Transplant provide services relating to stem cell transplantation to transplant centres in the UK and across the world. Both aim to find and provide the best possible solution for patients whose only hope of survival is a blood stem cell transplant.

It is acknowledged that while both organisations have the same aim, their structures, funding and governance are different.

The Anthony Nolan Trust is a registered charity managed by a board of trustees, working UK-wide, and relying on service provision and voluntary charitable income from the general public in order to operate. NHS Blood and Transplant is a Special Health Authority in the NHS, with responsibility for the provision of blood and stem cells in England and North Wales and of organs throughout the UK.

1. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will set out the basis on which NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) and The Anthony Nolan Trust (Anthony Nolan) will work together on the stem cell collection and umbilical cord blood banking activities undertaken by both organisations.
2. The MoU will reflect the agreement reached between the two organisations on 17th November 2008.
3. The purpose of the MoU will be to promote effective collaboration between NHSBT and Anthony Nolan in providing efficient services which deliver the greatest benefit to patients.
4. The MoU will be published on both organisations' websites.

Shared Outcomes:

1. to agree the optimal total number of cord blood stem cells collected by Anthony Nolan and NHSBT to be made available for search, based on the best clinical evidence available;
2. to agree joint messaging to promote the benefits of cord blood stem cell donation;

3. to develop a joint business case to seek funding from the Department of Health to increase the number of cord blood donations banked, so that between NHSBT and Anthony Nolan, the optimal number of cord blood donations are available no later than March 2013;
4. to develop good and effective working arrangements between Anthony Nolan and NHSBT; and
5. to respect and remain mindful of the professional reputation and good standing of both organisations, ensuring not to bring either into disrepute

Communications

The need to promote donation more effectively among all audiences, thereby increasing the likelihood of effective matches, is a priority.

The MoU will recognise that the overriding priority in communicating the aims and scope of the two organisations' work is to ensure clarity, consistency and confidence about stem cell and cord blood collection and use among the public, press and other stakeholders. An important element of this understanding relates to the scope for expanding the clinical use of stem cell transplantation and cord blood in life-saving treatment.

Where there is a matter of mutual interest and where Anthony Nolan and NHSBT are working jointly on specific projects, the two organisations will keep each other informed and may collaborate on external communications to ensure clear and consistent public information.

Review

The MoU and any new collaborative arrangements will be kept under review and amended, where necessary, by the written agreement of the Chief Executives of NHSBT and Anthony Nolan. In the first instance, the MoU will be reviewed after the first year.



Lynda Hamlyn
Chief Executive
NHS Blood and Transplant



Henny Braund
Chief Executive
The Anthony Nolan Trust