Appendix 6: Specific Requirements

To ensure that patient's specific blood transfusion requirements are met: good practice tips for use of irradiated cellular blood components.

1. Hospital should have a Specific requirements policy (see: Provision of specific requirements of blood and blood components policy)
2. Clinical areas and transfusion laboratories must ensure adequate communication about the requirement for irradiated components; especially important for shared care across sites/HBs.
3. Clinical areas/Pharmacy depts and transfusion laboratories need to agree upon and adopt formal process for the "Notification of Need "for special requirements and the provision of irradiated cellular blood components
4. The clinical team involved with the patient's care need to identify patients at risk of TA-GvHD/requiring irradiated cellular components.
5. Clinical teams need to clearly document on transfusion request forms being sent to transfusion laboratory (for each individual transfusion episode) the need for irradiated components
6. Clinical teams need to clearly authorise (prescribe) cellular blood components as irradiated on transfusion record document.
7. Specific requirements, including need for irradiated blood components, must be part of the bedside check prior to administration of all blood components; this check should be documented
8. Laboratory information management systems (LIMS) should be able to maintain record of requirement until removed.
9. The LIMS should prevent selection of non-irradiated cellular components unless appropriate overrides have been authorised.
10. Patients requiring irradiated components should be informed of the need and the reasons for this they should also be provided with appropriate written guidance using the recommended NSS/SNBTS produced patient information leaflet (PIL) irradiated_blood.pdf (nhs.scot)
11. Where possible patients should be encouraged to carry the tear off "Special requirement-irradiated cellular component" advice card (see PIL link above) to facilitate provision of appropriate components.

Clinical teams need to inform the transfusion laboratory, when there are changes in patients' clinical need for irradiated cellular blood components, so that protocol can be amended or removed from LIMS record.