

Blood Group Genotyping in Scotland

**Blood Group Genotyping
is the start of our journey
to provide better matched
blood for patients who rely
on repeated transfusions.**

**Better matched blood is
safer and reduces the risk
of reactions during or after
transfusion.**

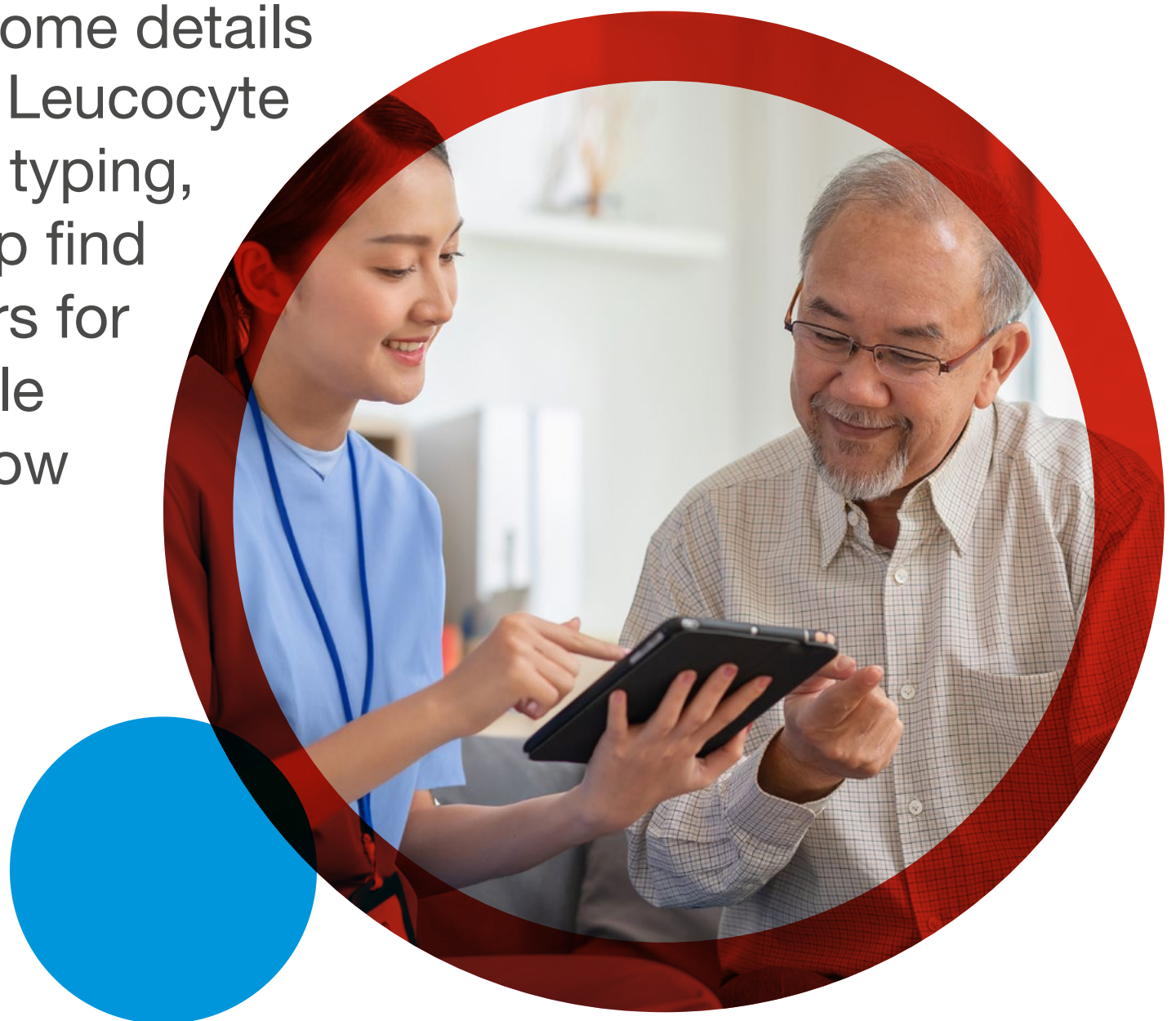


What's happening?

The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) will be offering blood group genotyping for patients in Scotland with haemoglobin disorders who need regular blood transfusions for their health and well-being. This includes patients with Sickle Cell Disorder (SCD), Thalassaemia, and other Rare Inherited Red Cell Disorders, such as Diamond-Blackfan Anaemia Syndrome (DBAS).

What is blood group genotyping?

Blood group genotyping is genetic testing which will provide more detail about each patient's blood groups. This test only needs to be done once and answers the question "what blood groups do you have?". There are over 300 known blood groups. This programme will also provide some details about Human Leucocyte Antigen (HLA) typing, which can help find suitable donors for patients eligible for bone marrow or stem cell transplants.



How will blood group genotyping help me?

Blood group genotyping is the **first step** towards providing better matched blood for patients.

Some blood groups are more common in certain ethnicities. If patients receive blood not closely matched to their own, they may develop antibodies. Antibodies may cause them to have severe reactions to future transfusions and may make it more difficult to find blood in future.

There is a small pool of donors in the UK who have had blood group genotyping. Their blood could be provided for some patients with complex transfusion needs (like those with antibodies).

In the future, as more patients and donors have blood group genotyping done, we will be better able to use your blood group genotyping results to provide matched blood and reduce transfusion reactions.

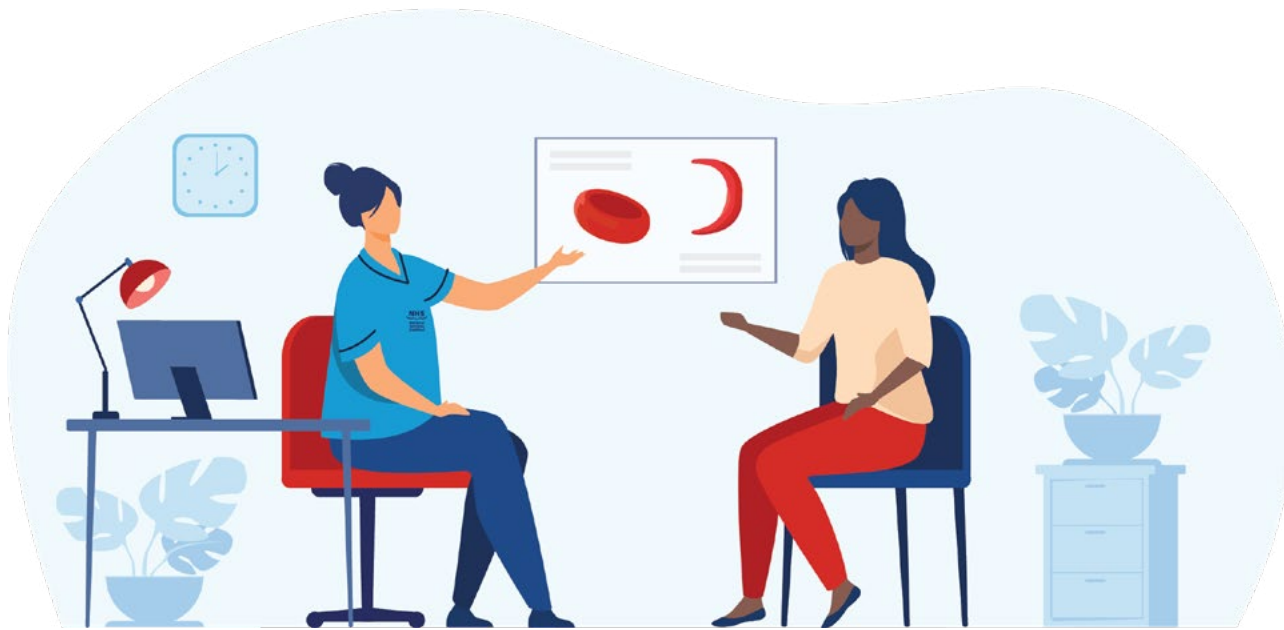


Who is eligible for this testing in Scotland?

Patients with inherited red cell disorders who need or are likely to need blood transfusions.

Patient group examples include:

- Sickle Cell Disorder
- Transfusion-Dependent Thalassaemia
- Transfusion dependent Rare Inherited Red Cell Disorders



When can I get tested?

Testing will be available in Scotland from **10 December 2024** to **12 December 2025**.

How and where can I get tested?

Your medical and/or nursing team can arrange testing during one of your hospital visits.

They will take samples and fill in a request form (to request the sample and confirm that you have given consent) if you agree to be tested. The sample cannot be tested without your consent.

How is this different from the blood samples I normally have taken?

The blood sample for blood group genotyping can be taken along with your regular blood samples.

But we need **verbal consent** to do genetic testing of your blood groups. We also need you to tell us if you agree for us to:

- a.** store and use leftover samples for quality control purposes (to ensure that tests work as they should) or ethics committee approved research
- b.** dispose of leftover samples

What happens after I get tested?

Your team will send your samples to your local laboratory who will then send them to SNBTS' lab in Glasgow.

SNBTS will prepare your samples before sending them to the lab that is doing all the tests for the UK. This lab is in Bristol, England.

Your results will be sent to your team via SNBTS and your local blood bank.

When will I get my results?

As this testing is new, it may take several months to get your results.

Where can I find more information about this testing programme?

More information can be found online by visiting:

www.nss.nhs.scot/national-programmes/blood-group-genotyping-programme-in-scotland/blood-group-genotyping-in-scotland/



Who can I contact for more information?

Scottish testing arrangements:
nss.BGGenPrgTestEnquiries@nhs.scot



Contact us

0345 90 90 999

nss.BGGenPrgTestEnquiries@nhs.scot

scotblood.co.uk

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