



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

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Subject: Charges For Blood and Blood Derivatives Supplied to Non-Health Service Hospitals 2026-27	Circular Reference: HSC(F) 09-2026 Date of Issue: 30 June 2026
For Action by: Chief Executives of HSC Trusts For Information to: Chief Executive of the Blood Transfusion Service (Special Agency) Chief Executive of the Business Services Organisation Summary of Contents: This circular provides additional information on the charges for supply of blood and its derivatives. Enquiries: Any enquiries about the contents of this Circular should be addressed to: Finance Policy, Accountability and Counter Fraud Unit Department of Health Room D3, Castle Buildings Stormont BELFAST BT4 3SQ fpau@health-ni.gov.uk	Superseded Documents: HSC(F) 15-2025 Status of Contents: Action Implementation: 01 July 2026

Dear Colleagues

HANDLING CHARGES FOR BLOOD AND BLOOD DERIVATIVES SUPPLIED TO NON-HEALTH SERVICE HOSPITALS

1. The Department has determined an increase in the charges for the supply of blood derivatives to non-health service hospitals with effect from 01 July 2026. In line with Managing Public Money, charges should be made at full cost including the standard cost of capital. The charges reflect current costs and are designed to recover the costs (including capital charges) incurred by the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service (NIBTS) in supplying them to non-Health Service hospitals. Where Health and Social Care Trusts incur additional costs in the onward supply to non-Health Service hospitals these can be recovered separately to these charges.
2. A copy of the new Determination, made under Article 10 of the Health and Personal Social Services (NI) Order 1972, is attached.

BACKGROUND

3. It has always been the policy of the Health Service to meet non-Health Service hospitals' reasonable requests for blood and certain blood derivatives which are not available commercially in Northern Ireland and such requests should continue to be met according to availability and clinical need. However, in accordance with the policy that economic charges should be made for Health Service facilities offered to non-Health Service hospitals, all non-Health Service hospitals receiving blood or its derivations should meet, in full, the costs incurred by the Health Service in providing such materials. This principle will also apply to private patients receiving treatment in Health Service hospitals, but under the arrangements described in paragraph 10.
4. A list of charges is set out in the Schedule to the attached Determination. **IT IS STRESSED THAT THE CHARGES DO NOT INCLUDE ANY ELEMENT FOR THE BLOOD ITSELF WHICH IS DONATED FREE OF CHARGE TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE FOR USE WHERE IT IS NEEDED.**

SCOPE OF THE CHARGES

5. The charges have been individually calculated to cover in full, costs incurred by the NIBTS including collection, testing, processing and issue of each item prior to supply. Health and Social Care Trusts may incur additional costs in the subsequent supply to non-Health Service hospitals which are not included in these charges and should be recovered separately. The charges do not cover any additional work undertaken by the Health Service such as cross-matching.

CHARGING ARRANGEMENTS

6. The arrangements for the supply of blood and derivatives by hospital blood banks to non-Health Service hospitals are a matter for the Health and Social Care Trusts. These bodies should ensure that proper accounting procedures exist to enable prompt and efficient charging of materials supplied. Credit for returned units should not be given except where the same Health Service haematologist is responsible for blood storage in both the non-Health Service hospital and the Health Service hospital blood bank. In such circumstances credit should be given for usable in-dated units returned to the Health Service hospital blood bank, provided that the non-Health Service hospitals' storage facilities were in accordance with the guidelines formally agreed by the Health Service haematologist. No charge should be made for the supply of blood or blood derivatives used in the treatment of Health Service patients in private hospitals.

CONDITIONS OF SUPPLY

7. The HSC Trusts should make it a condition of supply that:
 - a. the non-Health Service hospital is not to make a profit on blood and blood derivatives; and
 - b. any unused blood or blood derivatives should be returned by prior arrangements to the hospital blood bank to arrange disposal and for essential record-keeping.

BLOOD DERIVATIVES

8. Although the list of charges in the schedule to the attached determination includes Health Service manufactured blood derivatives, the HSC Trusts are asked to note that requests received from non-Health Service hospitals for blood derivatives in which the Health Service is not self-sufficient and which are readily available commercially should continue to be met only in exceptional circumstances. In case of doubt the Chief Executive of the NIBTS will advise on the availability of commercially manufactured products.
9. Please note that there are no new additions to the blood derivatives listed in the charging schedule for 2026/27.

PRIVATE PATIENTS IN HEALTH SERVICE HOSPITALS

10. An element to cover the cost of supply of blood or blood derivatives is incorporated as appropriate in the charges for private patients.

VALUE ADDED TAX

11. These charges are outside the scope of Value Added Tax.

TREATMENT OF INCOME

12. Income from this source will form part of statutory income (other operating income) and will be retained along with all other income by the HSC Trusts.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

13. These charges should be applied for the supply of any blood or derivatives on or after 01 July 2026. They will be subject to review each financial year.

ACTION BY HSC TRUSTS

14. The HSC Trusts are asked to:

- (i) bring the provisions of this Circular to the attention of all non-Health Service hospitals within their area where appropriate;
- (ii) arrange to be notified of all supplies of blood and its derivatives to non-Health Service hospitals;
- (iii) bring the charges listed in the attached Schedule into effect from 01 July 2026;
- (iv) ensure that suitable records are kept of blood and derivatives supplied by hospital blood banks to non-Health Services hospitals; and
- (v) ensure that suitable records are kept of blood and derivatives returned from non-Health Service hospitals.

CANCELLATION OF INSTRUCTIONS

15. Circular HSC (F) 15-2025 is now obsolete and should be cancelled.

Any enquiries about the contents of this Circular should be addressed to the Finance Policy, Accountability and Counter Fraud Unit mailbox - Email: fpau@health-ni.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

KATHY NEEDHAM



**THE HEALTH AND PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES (NORTHERN IRELAND)
ORDER 1972**

**THE CHARGES FOR SUPPLY OF BLOOD AND BLOOD DERIVATIVES TO NON-
HEALTH SERVICE HOSPITALS DETERMINATION (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2026**

The Department of Health^a in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 10 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972^b hereby determines as follows:

CITATION AND COMMENCEMENT

1. This Determination may be cited as the Charges for Supply of Blood and Blood Derivatives to Non-Health Service Hospitals Determination (Northern Ireland) 2026 and shall come into operation on 1st July 2026.

CHARGES

2. The charges listed in the Schedule shall be made for the processing and supply of a unit of human blood or blood derivative for the treatment of patients otherwise than in Health Service hospitals.

REVOCATION

3. The Charges for Handling Blood and Blood Derivatives Supplied to Non-Health Service Hospitals Determination (Northern Ireland) 2025 is hereby revoked.

A SENIOR OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DATE 30 June 2026

^a Formerly the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (see 2016 c.5 (N.I.) s.1(5))

^b SI 1972/1265 (NI 14)

SCHEDULE

CHARGES FOR SUPPLY OF BLOOD AND BLOOD DERIVATIVES TO NON-HEALTH SERVICE HOSPITALS

2026/27

Blood Derivative	Charge per Unit £
Red Cells	199.77
Red Cells - Irradiated	212.15
Paediatric Red Cells	74.72
Paediatric Red Cells - Irradiated	86.66
Platelet Concentrate - Irradiated	399.87
Platelet Concentrate Neonatal / Irradiated	185.56
FFP	72.13
Pooled Cryoprecipitate	306.28
Neonatal FFP	54.26
Neonatal Cryoprecipitate	52.66

