

Meeting details

Subject	JPAC Board
Date	Thursday 26 March 2026
Time	10:00 to 13:00
Location	Microsoft Teams

Attendees

JPAC Office

Clare Denison	CD	Deputy Director, JPAC	
Gary Mallinson	GMa	Scientific Lead for Safety Policy, JPAC/SaBTO	
Peter Rae	PR	Scientific Publishing Manager, JPAC	(Minutes)
Stephen Thomas	ST	Professional Director, JPAC	(Chair)
Seetha Wahab	SW	Head of Scientific Safety Policy, JPAC/SaBTO	
Anna Witham	AW	Administrator, JPAC	

Executive Working Group

Emyr Adlam	EA	Chair, Standing Advisory Committee on Information Technology (SACIT)	
Kenny Douglas	KD	Chair, SAC on Cellular Therapy Products (SACCTP)	
Ryan Evans	RE	Chair, SAC on Blood Components (SACBC)	
Dora Foukaneli	DF	Clinical Transfusion Medicine Specialist, JPAC	
Jayne Hughes	JH	Chair, SAC on Care and Selection of Donors (SACCSO)	
Richard Lomas	RL	Chair, SAC on Tissues (SACT)	
Nicole Thornton	NT	Chair, SAC on Immunohaematology (SACIH)	
Ines Ushiro-Lumb	IUL	Chair, SAC on Transfusion Transmitted Infection (SACTTI)	

JPAC Board

Allameddine Allameddine	AA	Medical Director, NIBTS	
Neil Almond	NA	MHRA South Mimms Laboratories	
Richard Ballerand	RB	Lay representative, JPAC	
Andrew Godfrey	AG	Medical Director, IBTS	(Observer)
Katie Hands	KH	Associate Medical Director, SNBTS - deputising for LM	
Evelyn McLennan	EMc	Chair, UK Quality Managers Group	
Edwin Massey	EMa	Medical Director, WBS	
Gail Miflin	GMi	Chief Medical Officer, NHSBT	
David Olszowka	DO	Regulatory Governance Lead, MHRA	
Helen Percival	HP	Lay representative, JPAC	
Amy Shackell	AS	Regulation Manager, HTA	

Guests

Lauren Kirkpatrick	LK	Consultant in Transfusion Medicine, NIBTS	(Observer)
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Apologies

Lorna McLintock	LM	Medical Director, SNBTS	
Shruthi Narayan	SN	Medical Director, SHOT	(Observer)

Agenda items **Action**

1. Welcome and apologies

ST welcomed attendees:

- **SW** is attending her first JPAC Board meeting since joining the JPAC Office in December 2025
- **KH** is deputising for **LM**, Medical Director of SNBTS
- **LK** is attending as an observer

Other attendees and apologies as noted.

2. Minutes and actions

2.1. Minutes of the JPAC Board meeting on 13 November 2025 (JPAC 26-02)

Approved for publication on the website. **PR**

2.2. Review of open actions (JPAC 26-03)

- **Chapter 9.2: Microbiology screening (JPAC 25-63) to be resubmitted** (13.11.25, item 5.1)
Still to be submitted to EWG, ahead of resubmission to JPAC Board. Action carried forward. **IUL**

- **Consider JPAC input into the Carter review of pathology services** (13.11.25, item 10.2)
Discussed by EWG on 29 January 2026. It was agreed the review is outside JPAC's remit. Action closed.

2.3. Workplan – summary of open items expected 2026 (JPAC 26-04)

A summary of open items, with planned dates of submission to the JPAC Board, was provided. Attendees were invited to review the full workplan (JPAC 26-13) and suggest items for inclusion.

There is currently no item relating to the review of the EU SoHO Regulation and its impact on future UK legislation. This work is ongoing but submission dates are currently unclear. Further clarity is expected when Tracey Miller, Regulatory Affairs Manager, joins JPAC at the end of the month.

An item addressing potential actions arising from the Plasma for Medicines (PfM) programme will also be considered for inclusion in the workplan. **ST**

Note **EMa** joined the meeting

3. Standing Advisory Committee on Care and Selection of Donors (SACCS D)

3.1. Update on 'Tropical Viruses' guidance (JPAC 26-05)

Updates to the 'Tropical Viruses' guidance in the Donor Selection Guidelines (DSGs) and the Geographical Disease Risk Index (GDRI) have been planned in three phases.

Phase 1 is now complete, with the introduction of a seasonal risk period for European countries in the GDRI where appropriate monitoring is in place. This is currently for France and Italy only.

Phase 2 proposes renaming ‘Tropical Viruses’ as ‘Mosquito-borne Viruses’ in the DSGs and GDRI. It was agreed that these changes should be applied to all five DSGs for consistency.

Phase 3 proposes the reduction of the deferral period for illness after travel to a mosquito-borne virus risk area from 6 months to 4 months, and the removal of Yellow Fever travel risk from guidance for plasmapheresis donors.

Phases 2 and 3 were approved by the JPAC Board.

Publication will be scheduled to align with the launch of the new JPAC website.

PR

3.2. Update on ‘Malaria’ guidance (JPAC 26-06)

A number of changes have been proposed including the removal of the current malarial risk categories, clarification of malarial areas in countries with a regional risk, separation of guidance for visitors and residents, and the replacement of the existing malarial maps.

The proposed changes represent an increase or decrease in stringency for some countries, although most are minor and are not considered likely to significantly impact malaria testing rates. A significant increase in stringency would apply to India, which would become subject to an all-country risk. This is due to the difficulty of preparing guidance that reflects the complexity of India’s current and historical malarial risks, and the need to align that guidance with UK Malaria Expert Advisory Group (UKMEAG) maps, given that the current TRAVAX maps are no longer maintained.

In view of the substantial changes proposed, it was agreed that the UK services should be given an extended notification period prior to publication.

Approved by the JPAC Board.

Publication will be scheduled to align with the launch of the new JPAC website.

PR

Note NA left the meeting

3.3. Update on acupuncture (JPAC 26-07)

Following agreement from DHSC and the devolved administrations, it is proposed that the current definition of a ‘qualified practitioner’ of acupuncture be expanded to include practitioners in one of the four UK nations acting in accordance with the legislation applying to licensing and registration in that nation. Guideline updates and an accompanying Position Statement have been prepared.

Approved for publication by the JPAC Board.

PR

3.4. Position Statement – Plasma from anti-HBc positive donors (JPAC 26-08)

A Position Statement has been prepared to clarify that JPAC has no objection to anti-HBc positive donors being accepted as donors of source plasma for the Plasma for Medicines (PfM) programme.

A minor amendment was suggested to clarify that viable virus is inactivated or removed, rather than destroyed, during the processing of source plasma.

Pending this amendment, approved for publication by the JPAC Board.

PR

4. Standing Advisory Committee on Blood Components (SACBC)

4.1. Provisional specification – Neonatal Apheresis Platelets in PAS and Plasma (APiPAS) (JPAC 26-09)

A provisional specification has been prepared to facilitate operational validation of neonatal APiPAS within NHSBT. It is based on the equivalent adult specification, with appropriate modifications to account for the additional manufacturing steps involved.

It was noted that while the specification states the component is suitable for use if the total length of agitation interruption does not exceed 24 hours, only a total of six hours non-agitation was validated in the Phase 0 study. SACBC has considered this to be acceptable given that the adult component was assessed as satisfactory following worst case scenario non-agitation.

Approved for publication by the JPAC Board.

PR

Note IUL joined the meeting

5. Standing Advisory Committee on Transfusion Transmitted Infection (SACTTI)

5.1. Annual Emerging Infection Monitoring Report 2025 (JPAC 26-10)

Approved by the JPAC Board. While previous annual reports have not been published, it was suggested that they should now be made available on the JPAC website.

PR

5.2. Position Statement – Estimated residual risk for HBV, HCV and HIV, Sept 2025 (JPAC 26-11)

Approved for publication by the JPAC Board.

PR

6. Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO)

A summary report of recent activities relevant to JPAC was provided (JPAC 26-12).

7. Any other business

7.1. UKBTS Pandemic Plan (JPAC 26-14)

The plan, included as a paper for noting by the JPAC Board, will be published on the JPAC website.

PR

7.2. New JPAC website (www.jpac.org.uk)

The new website is scheduled to launch on 1 May 2026. The JPAC Office will circulate a notification to the UK blood services on 1 April 2026, including details of the launch and changes that will be implemented on the new website. The current website (www.transfusionguidelines.org) will be maintained in parallel with the new website until 1 June 2026, after which it will be retired.

7.3. Retirement of Gary Mallinson

This was **GMa**'s last JPAC Board meeting before his planned retirement in April. **SW** will then assume the lead scientific role in the JPAC Office and SaBTO secretariat.

ST and attendees thanked Gary for his significant contribution to JPAC and SaBTO over many years.

8. Papers for noting

There were no objections to the papers included for noting (JPAC 26-13 to 26-26).

9. Dates of future meetings

EWG Thursday 23 April 2026

EWG Thursday 21 May 2026

EWG Thursday 23 July 2026

EWG Thursday 22 October 2026

JPAC Board Thursday 18 June 2026

JPAC Board Thursday 19 November 2026