

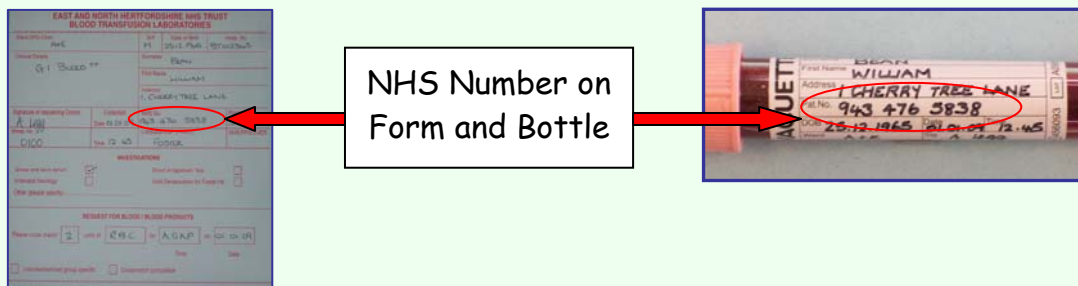
BLOOD TRANSFUSION DEPARTMENT **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The NPSA Safer Practice Notice* issued on 1st September 2009 stated that the **NHS number** is to be used as the primary identifier for patients and that the NHS Number must be used in/on **ALL** correspondence, notes, patient wristbands and patient care.

With immediate effect:

All **request forms** and **samples** for Blood Transfusion must be clearly labelled with the **NHS number** (where a patient has one). This will form one of the four points of identification that are required for all Blood Transfusion samples. This includes requests for cross-matching, groups & antibody screens, B27 and other HLA testing, haemochromatosis gene screening and Direct Coombs Test requests.

The NHS number will be booked onto the pathology system and used to conduct patient searches and generate patient records.



The blood transfusion department reserves the right to refuse to process samples which are incorrectly labelled.

Request forms must include: patient name, address, DoB, NHS number (where a patient has one), gender, reason for request, name and contact details of requestor, date of request.