

# The true cost of blood transfusions

Blood components per transfusion	Average Usage* <sup>1</sup> (units)	£ per unit	£'s per transfusion
Red Blood cells (RBC)* <sup>1*8</sup>	2.7* <sup>1*3</sup>	£125* <sup>2</sup>	£337.50
Platelets* <sup>1*8</sup>	1.2* <sup>8*3</sup>	£209.30* <sup>8*14</sup>	£251.16
FFP* <sup>1*8</sup>	3 packs* <sup>8*3</sup>	£27.46* <sup>8*14</sup>	£76.88
Staff & Hospital Costs* <sup>5*6*7</sup>		£112.3* <sup>9</sup>	£303.21

**Total cost of blood & components per average transfusion\*<sup>1</sup> = £968.75**

Product components per transfusion	Capacity	£ per item	£'s per unit of blood	£'s average transfusion* <sup>11</sup>
Orbital Shaker Unit 5 year life span	520 procedures per year* <sup>10</sup>	£5,000	£0.71	£1.92
Hemosep Cell Concentrator Bag	1 Litre (4 units)* <sup>12</sup>	£325.00	£81.25	£219.38
Hemosep Hydration Pack	N/A	£5.10	£1.59	£4.30
Hemosep Blood Collection Bag	1 Litre	£6.00	£1.50	£4.05

**Total cost of Hemosep per average transfusion = £240\*<sup>11\*13\*15</sup>**

Over 30,000 heart bypass operations are carried out in the UK every year with just over half needing blood\*<sup>4</sup> if this technology was applied to all of these patients the total saving to the NHS would be £10,931,250 per year, giving the NHS greater flexibility in blood spending allocation.

**Average NHS Saving = £728.75**

The benefit of the Hemosep device over current methods are its ease of use and direct practicality to theatre, no lengthy training is required and the unit can be used simply and effectively whilst freeing up the time of clinical staff.

Current average costs based on using a cell salvage machine just once a week are being quoted by the Healthcare Finance 2010 as being £10,500 per year. The simple and clear advantage Hemosep has over all competitor devices is, that it is **simple to use with no specialist knowledge required to operate the device**. In turn it will lead the way to increasing usage of cell salvage technology whilst improving patient outcomes and enhancing cost savings to the NHS.

1) THE INCREASING COST OF BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS IN THE UK, 2001 Susan J Varney and Julian F Guest Catalyst Health Economics Consultants, Northwood, Middlesex, UK.

2) NHS Blood & Transport 2012

3) Prices for blood, blood components and diagnostic services for 2004/05, Prof. Lindsey Davies, Regional Director of Public Health at the Department of Health & Social Care

4) Daily Mail, They are supposed to save lives, but could a blood transfusion give you a heart attack? By Pat Hagan, 3 August 2010

5) The cost of blood transfusion in western Europe Ivo Abraham & Diana Sun 2011

6) Figure converted back from Euros using Aug 2011 Mean Exchange rate www.x-rates.com

7) Average 2012 exchange rate www.x-rates.com

8) Blood Transfusion and the Anaesthetist Blood Compartment Therapy 2005

9) Average price calculated using the \*8 study reducing the cost of blood @ £140 per unit

10) Figure based on the orbital shaker performing two operations per day, 5 days per week.

11) Average transfusion price is calculated using the average use per procedure; this does not represent any wastage amounts and is solely based on average transfusions \*1

12) Please note: The Hemosep concentrator bag have a maximum quantity fill of 1 litre it is however recommended to fill the concentrator bag to 80% for efficient blood recycling procedures.

13) Figure includes potential inclusion of platelets @ £27.46 per unit average usage in 1 in 3 patients

14) Catalyst-health -the-increasing-cost-of-blood-transfusions. NHSBT hospital. Blood price\_list\_2012\_13.pdf

15) Total price includes maintenance rate of £1.20 per procedure

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