**Risk, safety and consent in contemporary blood services in the United Kingdom: perspectives from sociology and law**

This project aimed to provide a sociologically informed analysis of professional practice, public policy, law, and public understandings in relation to risks in the supply of blood products in the UK. By blood products we mean therapeutic products derived from blood and plasma: blood components may be prepared and administered in transfusion, whereas plasma proteins once separated from blood may form the basis for a range of manufactured plasma products. The primary focus in this project is on how people address these issues in relation to blood components and their use in transfusion to patients in NHS hospitals. In addition, three of the interviews address plasma products more specifically.

Within the study we undertook 18in-depth interviews with professionals and people with a policy role in blood services, transfusion medicine, and blood products, and 10with representatives of key patient societies. These explored how people think about risk, safety and consent in relation to blood in the context of their experience and expertise. One focus group was conducted with three people who had recently received transfusion and one interview with parents whose child had received regular blood transfusions. The project dataset comprises thirty transcripts in total, of which twenty transcripts are offered for data archiving, with the interviewees’ consent.

These interviews provide insight into how respondents address risk, safety and consent in relation to blood; descriptions of the interlocking systems for risk management and surveillance of blood safety at local, national and international levels; views on the dilemmas faced by regulators and policy makers in this context; and reflections on the experience of receiving blood transfusion, and on the significance of the legacy of blood contamination in the past for current policy and practice.