Essex & Herts Air Ambulance reaches amazing blood milestone

Friday 4 December, 2020

4th
December 2020

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance reaches amazing blood milestone

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) has now given blood transfusions to more than 100 patients.

This incredible milestone was reached recently when a man involved in a road traffic collision was given a pre-hospital transfusion by a clinical team based at the charity's North Weald airbase, who attended the incident by rapid response vehicle.

Laurie Phillipson, one of the charity's clinical managers said: "We began carrying blood on board our helicopters and Rapid Response Vehicles (RRVs) in March 2019 to provide an extra level of care to patients suffering significant blood loss.

"Being able to give a pre-hospital transfusion at the scene of an incident can be a life-saving intervention for the most seriously injured, and is another example of how EHAAT is bringing innovative care to the patient's side. Previously patients who suffered blood loss were given a saline solution, which doesn't carry oxygen or help with clotting."

"This milestone would not have been reached without the support we receive from the amazing laboratory and

transfusion team at The Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow, who provide our blood, and the fantastic volunteer drivers and bikers of the Essex Voluntary Blood Service who deliver the blood to our bases daily.

"This winter, there are extra challenges to provide hospitals with the blood, plasma and platelets they need. Please help by becoming a blood donor!"

EHAAT's helicopters and RRVs carry packed red blood cells of blood group O Negative, meaning they can be used on any patient. When required, these are given with plasma, the other major component of human blood. Together these form a meaningful volume replacement for our shocked and bleeding trauma patients.

The blood is replaced daily and replenished as required. It is delivered and stored in special insulated boxes that keep it at a cool temperature for over 24 hours. These are fitted with a data logger that indicates if the temperature is trending outside of safe limits. If unused after 24 hours the blood is returned to the hospital for use elsewhere, preventing any wastage of this precious commodity. When the blood is required, it is warmed to body temperature to make it safe to administer and prevent unnecessary cooling of the patient.

For more information about your local life-saving charity visit ehaat.org

-ENDS-

Photograph: An EHAAT critical care team practice giving a blood transfusion (simulation)

For more information contact Gavin Sherriff, PR Officer, on 0345 2417 690 or 07870 158 309

Notes to Editor:

- Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) is a Charity that provides a Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) for the critically ill and injured of Essex, Hertfordshire and the surrounding areas.
- The service is provided free of charge but, unlike NHS emergency services, the Charity receives limited direct funding from the Government and none from the National Lottery. It costs in excess

Media:



Related Sectors:

Charities & non-profits :: Health :: Medical & Pharmaceutical ::

Related Keywords:

Air Ambulance :: Lifesaving :: Essex :: Hertfordshire :: Blood :: Transfusion :: Harlow :: Bikers :: HEMS :: Helicopter :: Blood Donor ::

Scan Me:

of £750,000 every month to keep the service operational and cover all charitable costs, and this would not be possible without the generosity and goodwill of people and businesses of Essex, Hertfordshire and beyond.

- Each of the Charity's HEMS teams consist of two Pilots, a Pre-hospital Care Doctor and a Critical Care Paramedic.

- These teams, made up of highly-skilled individuals, attended 1,526 patients in 2019 and are the backbone of your local life-saving Charity.

- The fleet consists of two Air Ambulances, and four rapid response vehicles (RRVs - cars) The RRVs are crewed by a Pre-hospital Care Doctor and a Critical Care Paramedic and carry the same life-saving equipment as the helicopters.

- During the day, from 7am until 8.00pm, the Critical Care Team provides the service using helicopters based at Earls Colne and North Weald. An RRV is used before sunrise, after sunset or when the helicopter is unable to fly because of poor weather or maintenance.
- Overnight from 7.30pm to 7.30am the service is provided using an RRV based at North Weald.

Company Contact:

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance

T. 0345 2417 690
E. stuart.ward@ehaat.org
W. https://ehaat.org

View Online

Additional Assets:
Press Release

Newsroom: Visit our Newsroom for all the latest stories:
https://www.ehaat.pressat.co.uk