

Strengthening standards across the UK: A 2024 overview of the work of the Joint Professional Advisory Committee (JPAC)

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About JPAC

The Joint Professional Advisory Committee (JPAC) has two distinct remits:

- To be an advisory committee to, and
- To prepare detailed guidelines for

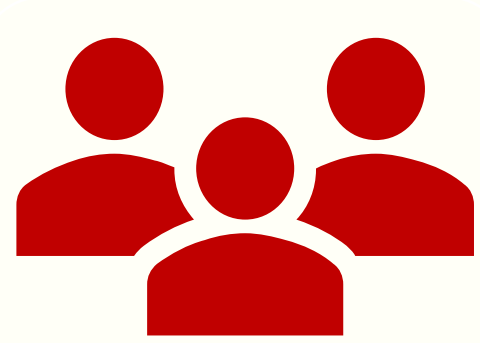
the UK Blood Transfusion and Tissue Transplantation Services.

This is achieved primarily through the work of specialist Standing Advisory Committees (SACs) – See Figure 1

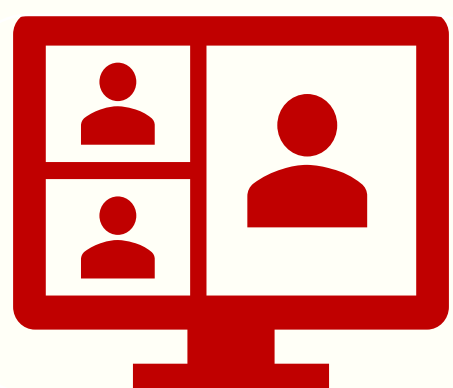
The Executive Working Group (EWG) coordinates the work of the individual SACs and reports to the JPAC Board, which includes the Medical Directors of the UK Services, their Quality lead, and representatives from HTA and MHRA (both regulatory and scientific), and observers from SHOT and IBTS.

A ‘typical’ year for JPAC consists of a variety of meetings and publications that contribute to the safety and efficacy of the UK Services.

2024 highlights



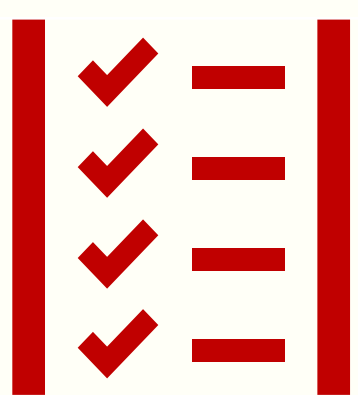
3
JPAC Board meetings



6
EWG meetings



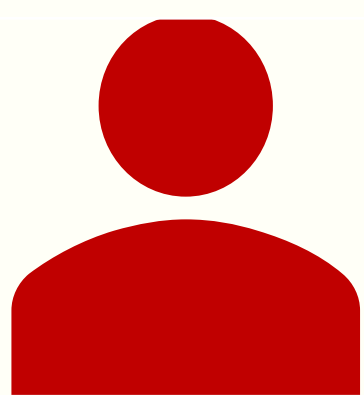
52
Change Notifications



12
Position Statements

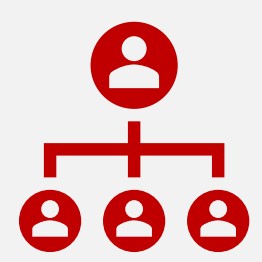


6
Risk Assessments



2
Lay members recruited

Responsibilities of JPAC Board, EWG & SACs



Oversee and coordinate the work of the EWG and the SACs to develop, maintain and communicate JPAC guidelines.



Ensure that appropriate discussions are held, and that the guidelines are based on robust evidence wherever possible.



Ensure alignment of the JPAC guidelines with the legislative and regulatory environment in the UK.



Ensure the timely updating of guidelines so they always reflect current best practice in the UK.

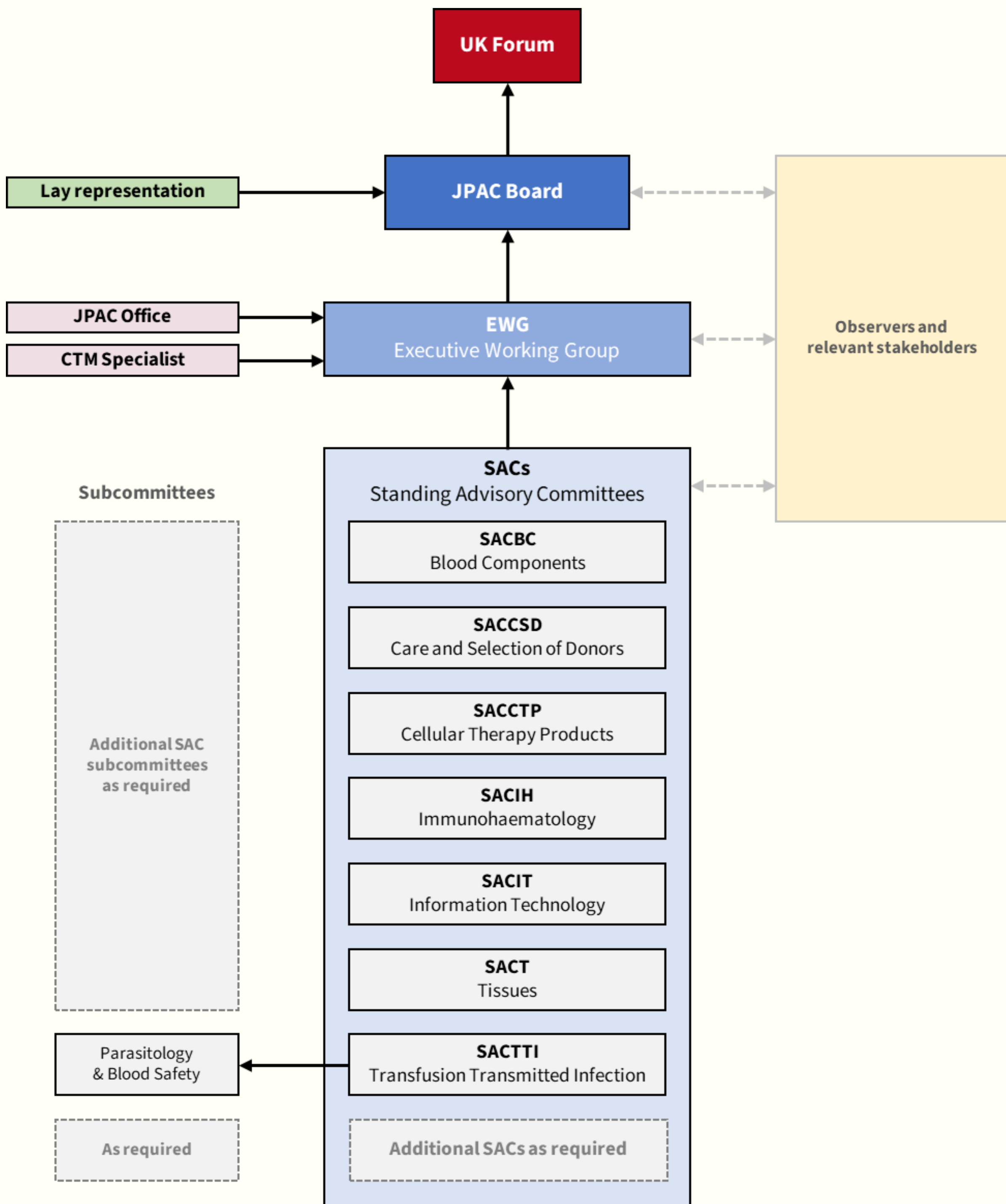


Quarterly reporting to the UK Forum, a group consisting of the Chief Executives and Medical Directors of the four Services.

JPAC Office Team

Dr Stephen Thomas	Professional Director
Clare Denison	Deputy Director
Dr Peter Rae	Scientific Publishing Manager
Dr Gary Mallinson	Scientific Lead for Safety Policy (JPAC/SaBTO)
Anna Witham	Office Administrator

Figure 1 JPAC structure



Operational improvements

- JPAC Terms of Reference have been updated and two lay members appointed.
- A new ‘Ways of Working’ document has been created following an extensive review of internal procedures in 2023.
- A UK-wide Quality Assurance survey has been conducted on implementation of guideline updates in each service and whether any nation specific changes were required. This provided an opportunity for the UK services to give feedback and to help improve the Change Notification process.

Coming soon...

In late 2025 the new JPAC website will be launched. Following consultation with users it will have an improved design, navigation and enhanced accessibility to improve user experience and ensure JPAC’s important, high-quality information remains easily accessible.

Acknowledgements

JPAC guidelines are evidence based and reviewed regularly. This is achieved through collaboration with subject matter experts from Blood Transfusion and Tissue Transplantation Services in the UK, regulatory agencies, academia and clinical collaborators. We are grateful for the time and expertise that is freely given in pursuit of excellence in donation, processing and use of blood, tissue and haematopoietic stem cells.

Visit our website to access guidelines and other resources and learn more about the structure and work of JPAC.

www.transfusionsguidelines.org

Contact us at JPACOffice@nhsbt.nhs.uk

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