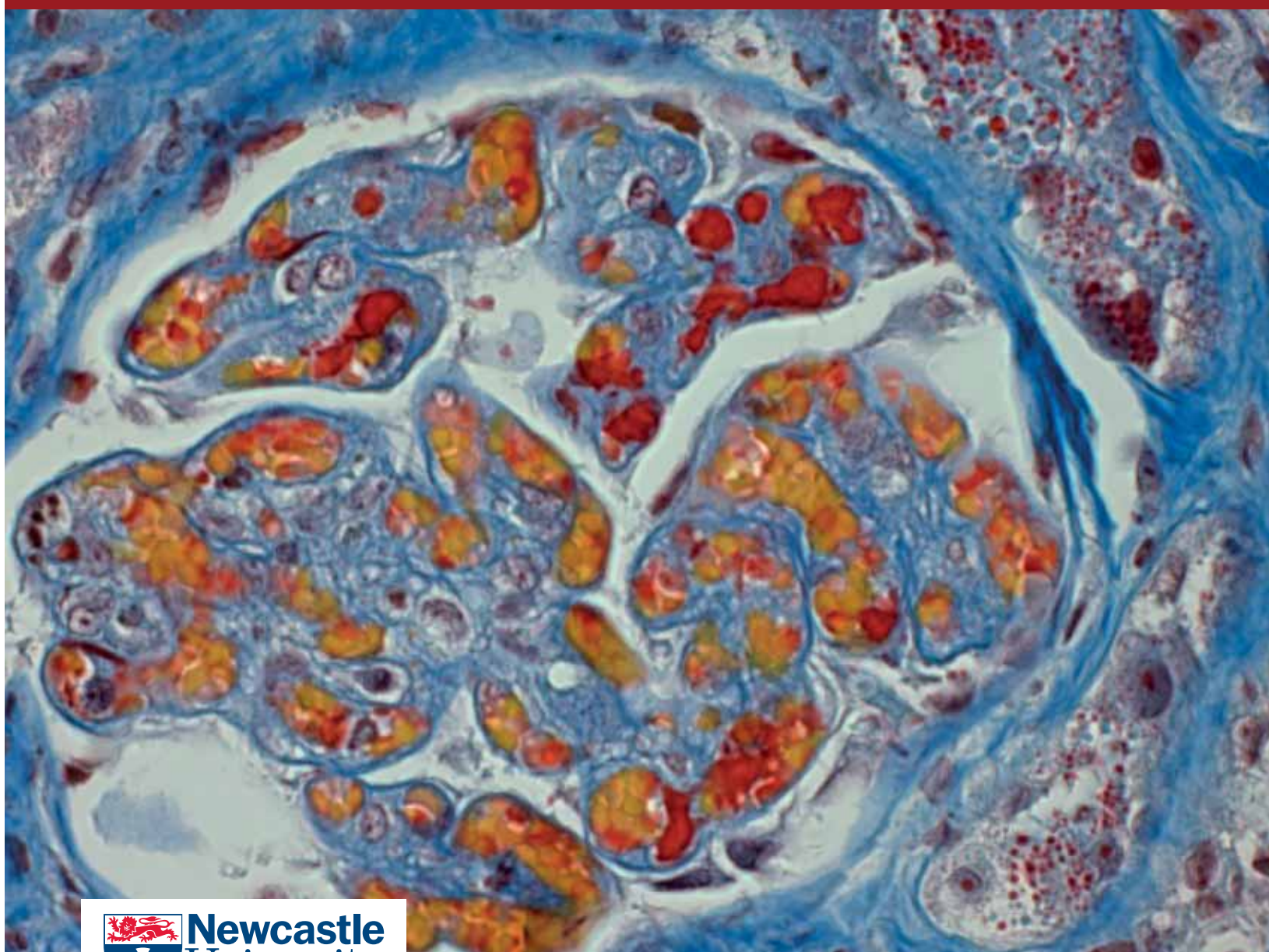
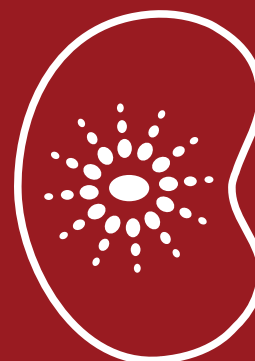
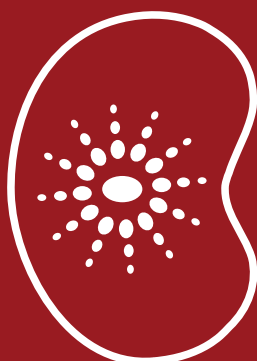
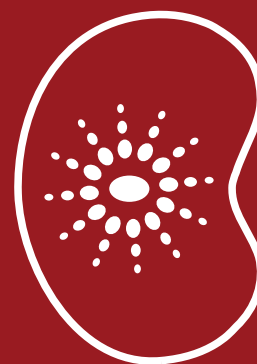
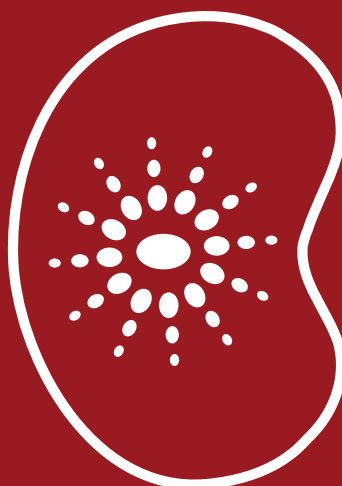
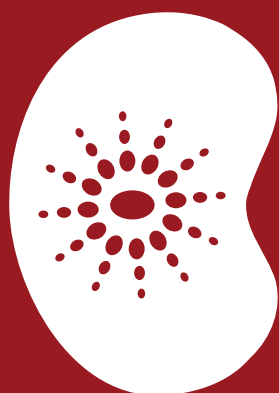
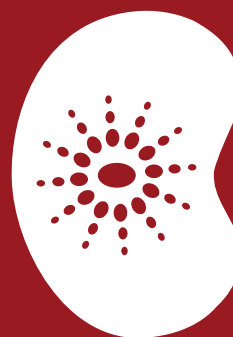
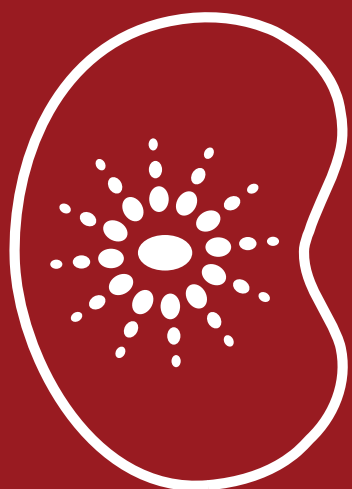


# The Annual Report of the National Renal Complement Therapeutics Centre 2017/18





## Authors

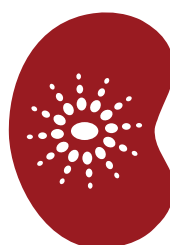
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# The Annual Report of the **National Renal Complement Therapeutics Centre** 2017/18

**aHUS**  
ATYPICAL HAEMOLYTIC URAEMIC SYNDROME



**NATIONAL  
RENAL  
COMPLEMENT  
THERAPEUTICS  
CENTRE**



**C3G**  
C3 Glomerulopathy

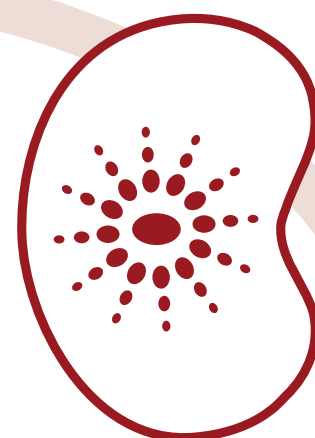






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# 1. Service Overview

## 1.1 The National Service

The National atypical Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome (aHUS) Service was commissioned in May 2016 by NHS England (NHSE) to co-ordinate the management of patients with aHUS and other thrombotic microangiopathies. The National C3G/MPGN Service was added to our portfolio in February 2017 to manage the investigation and treatment of these diseases recurring after kidney transplantation. The aim of our service is to provide a combined clinical, diagnostic, research and treatment centre for these complement mediated diseases. Our service delivers a fully integrated care pathway to expedite optimal management of patients referred to us on a shared-care basis with the referring clinicians.

The National aHUS Service and the National C3G Service are part of the National Renal Complement Therapeutics Centre (NRCTC), and are based at the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Our core team currently comprises five consultant nephrologists (3 adult and 2 paediatric), two nurse specialists and the administration team. To provide cutting edge diagnostics we also have six dedicated clinical scientists and two consultants working across genetics, haematology and immunology. Our consultants also work at the renal units at the Freeman hospital and the Great North Children's Hospital. The NRCTC is also fully integrated with the Newcastle University Complement Therapeutics Research group who were responsible for the discovery of the role of complement in aHUS, which ultimately led to the successful treatment of our patients with Eculizumab.





## 1.2 Our Vision and Values

Our vision is to be a centre of clinical excellence for patients with complement mediated renal diseases, including aHUS and C3G, at the forefront of international research. Our primary core value aligns with that of Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, "putting patients at the heart of everything we do." We wish to empower our patients to be knowledgeable about the care they require and receive. Our aspiration is to encourage our patients to influence the care we deliver, enabling personalised management.

### Our Vision

"a centre of clinical excellence for patients with complement mediated renal disease, including aHUS and C3G at the forefront of international research."



### Our Core Values

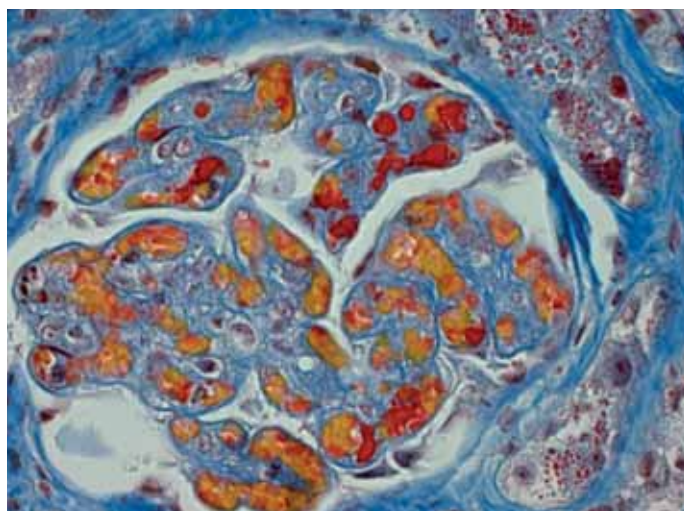
"putting patients at the heart of everything we do"

## 1.3 Disease Context

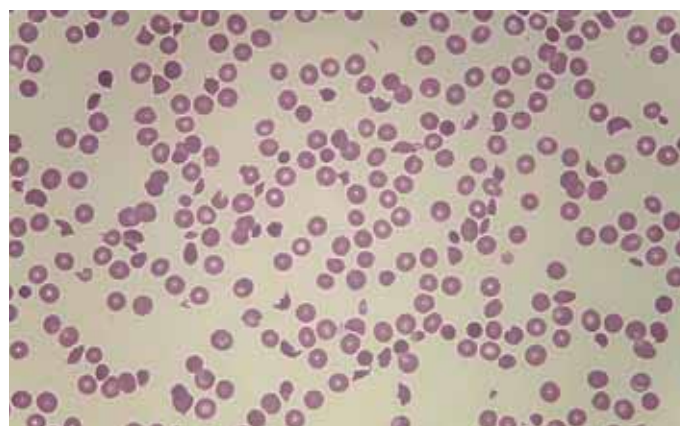
### 1.3.1 What is aHUS?

Atypical HUS is a rare disease with an incidence in the UK of 0.4-0.5 per million population. It presents with thrombocytopenia, microangiopathic haemolytic anaemia and acute kidney injury. Without treatment the prognosis for patients is poor with 50% of patients developing renal failure or dying in the first year after presentation.

There is no rapidly available test to confirm the diagnosis of complement mediated aHUS and the initial diagnosis is based on clinical, laboratory and pathological findings and the exclusion of other pathologies; in particular, infection related Shiga Toxin (STEC)-HUS and Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (TTP).



**Renal biopsy showing thrombus formation in aHUS**



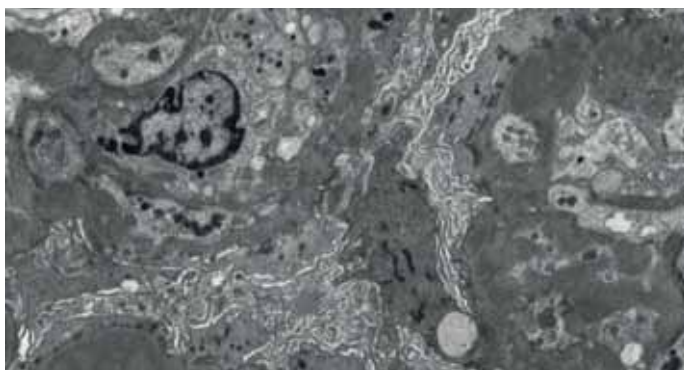
**Blood film from aHUS patient showing schistocytes**

Eculizumab was licenced for the treatment of aHUS in 2011 having been shown to be effective in non-randomised, single arm open label studies. After initial review, preliminary interim funding for the use of Eculizumab to treat patients with aHUS in England was approved in 2013 whilst the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) undertook further review. NICE published its guidance in 2015 recommending that Eculizumab was commissioned for the treatment of aHUS. However, reflecting the high cost of Eculizumab, NICE recommended that treatment of patients was co-ordinated through an expert centre.

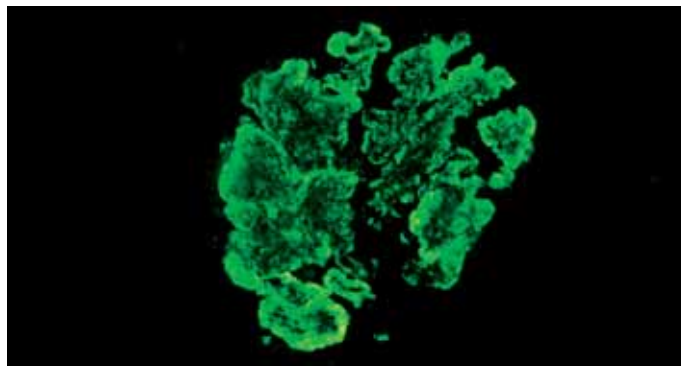
Since 2016, the National aHUS Service has been available 7 days a week 24 hours a day to provide advice on diagnosis and management from consultants experienced in the management of aHUS. We also provide rapid diagnostic testing and support for clinicians to exclude other forms of Thrombotic Microangiopathy (TMA).

### 1.3.2 What is C3G?

C3 Glomerulopathy is a rare disease with an estimated incidence of 1-2 per million worldwide. The clinical presentation is variable, ranging from an acute rapid progression of renal failure to a more indolent presentation of chronic kidney disease. On average, patients progress to endstage renal failure within 10 years and most patients who are subsequently transplanted develop recurrent disease, with approximately half of patients losing their kidney transplant to disease recurrence.



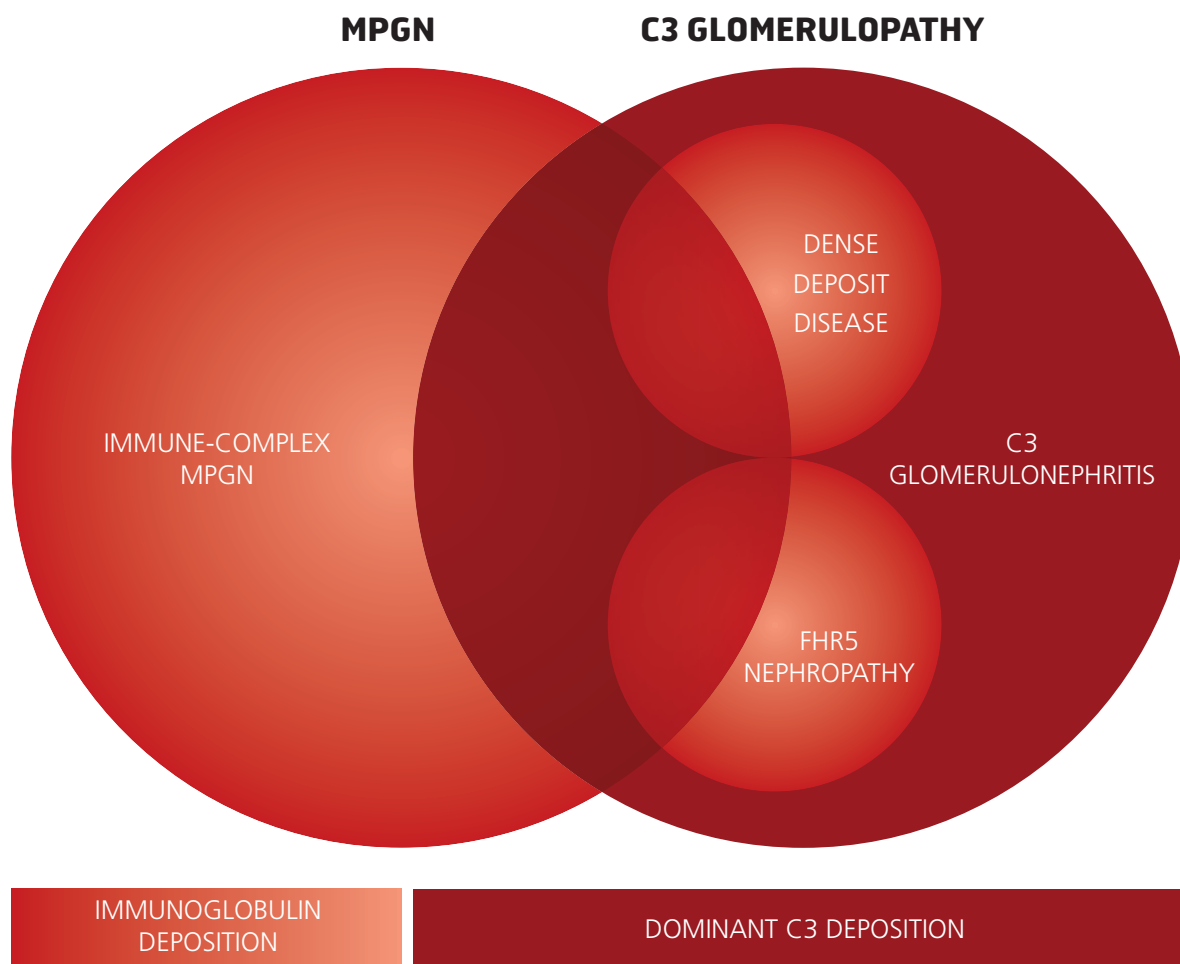
**Sub-endothelial deposits in C3GN**



**Strong C3 staining in C3GN**

The diagnosis of C3G is made on renal biopsy and based on the presence of dominant C3 deposition on immunofluorescence. Sub-classification of C3G into Dense Deposit Disease and C3 Glomerulonephritis is then based on the appearances on electron microscopy. Current classifications distinguish C3G from immune-complex MPGN though abnormalities in complement regulation can be found in both.

Eculizumab is not licenced for treatment of C3G but a review of the available evidence of its use in C3G led to a Clinical Commissioning Policy (NHSE 16054/P) published in February 2017 and possible use in recurrent C3G following renal transplantation. The implementation of this policy is co-ordinated through an expert C3G panel comprising the National Renal Complement Therapeutics Centre and the Imperial C3G Service.



**Overlap of MPGN and C3 Glomerulopathy**





## 1.4 Service Development

During this current reporting period the following developments have occurred:

- Implementation of NHS England policy for Eculizumab in the treatment of recurrent C3G following renal transplantation
- Appointment of an adult and a paediatric nephrologist
- Development of disease specific information for patients and carers
- Creation of a patient focus group to promote service development and launch a patient support network
- Establishment of aHUS roadshows for patients
- Continuous improvements to the National aHUS Service website, providing information for clinicians and patients
- Refinement of patient flow and follow up processes
- Winner of the Bright Ideas in Health Award for Research Delivery Impact

## 1.5 Our Strategy

Our six service strategic objectives reflect how we wish to meet our vision, focusing on where we are now and what we want to achieve in the future.

### Providing exceptional shared care today

- Advice/care will be offered in a timely manner to every person contacting the NRCTC.
- Every person requiring advice/care from the NRCTC will be provided with safe and high quality advice/care. Patients and their families engaging with the NRCTC will receive an excellent patient experience.

### Striving to improve our service

- Each member of the NRCTC team will be exploring ways to improve the delivery of care and advice we offer to clinicians, patients and their families.
- Each member of the NRCTC team will be an advocate for patients and their families.

### Advancing care for tomorrow

- We will enhance the reputation of Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals as the provider of a Highly Specialised Service, for the UK and the world.
- We will continue to be the world leaders in complement research with our partners Newcastle University and Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals.

## 1.6 Patient Engagement

Our team have been very active in eliciting the views of our patients, keeping them informed of our service developments and producing patient information.

In October 2017 we held the first patient focus group, with representation from all regions of England. Key themes from the focus group can be viewed below. The focus group agreed to meet annually to ensure our patients' needs continue to be met.

### You Said

### We Did

We would like regular updates about the service

Newsletters are published quarterly

We would like local patient and family days

Roadshows have been held in Durham and Manchester, more to follow

We would like easy access to aHUS literature

We have posted literature on our website

We would like a closed Facebook group

We have a twitter account. Facebook to follow!

Being diagnosed with aHUS is isolating

Introductory letters to be sent when you are diagnosed

Hand held records have been developed in order to empower our patients to take ownership of their care. These records were given to a group of patients for comments. Their feedback was positive and we have incorporated their ideas and patients will start receiving these as part of our referral pathway.

The National aHUS Service hosted members of the aHUS alliance, the umbrella organisation of aHUS patient groups from around the world. As part of their European tour of expert aHUS centres, they were able to visit three centres in six days; their visit to Newcastle was sandwiched between Paris and Milan. Linda Burke (USA) and Len Woodward (UK) presented the work the aHUS alliance is involved in, including patient information the alliance has produced, the purpose for the tour of expert centres and their vision for aHUS patients across the globe.



## 1.7 Working in Partnership and Offering Seamless Care

In order for patients with aHUS to receive excellent care, it is essential that the local clinical team and National aHUS Service each understand their roles and responsibilities in delivering that care. This was mandated in the service specification: namely to facilitate optimal patient management on a shared care basis with referring clinicians. The shared care protocol was initially rolled out to all incident patients commenced on Eculizumab in the new National aHUS Service with subsequent enrolment of the prevalent patients that were already receiving Eculizumab. This protocol is now embedded into our referral pathway.

The NRCTC have held a seminar series during the year hosting specialist staff from the Public Health England (PHE) reference laboratories in London and Manchester. Staff from Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals presented their experience of developing a regional highly specialised service for TTP.

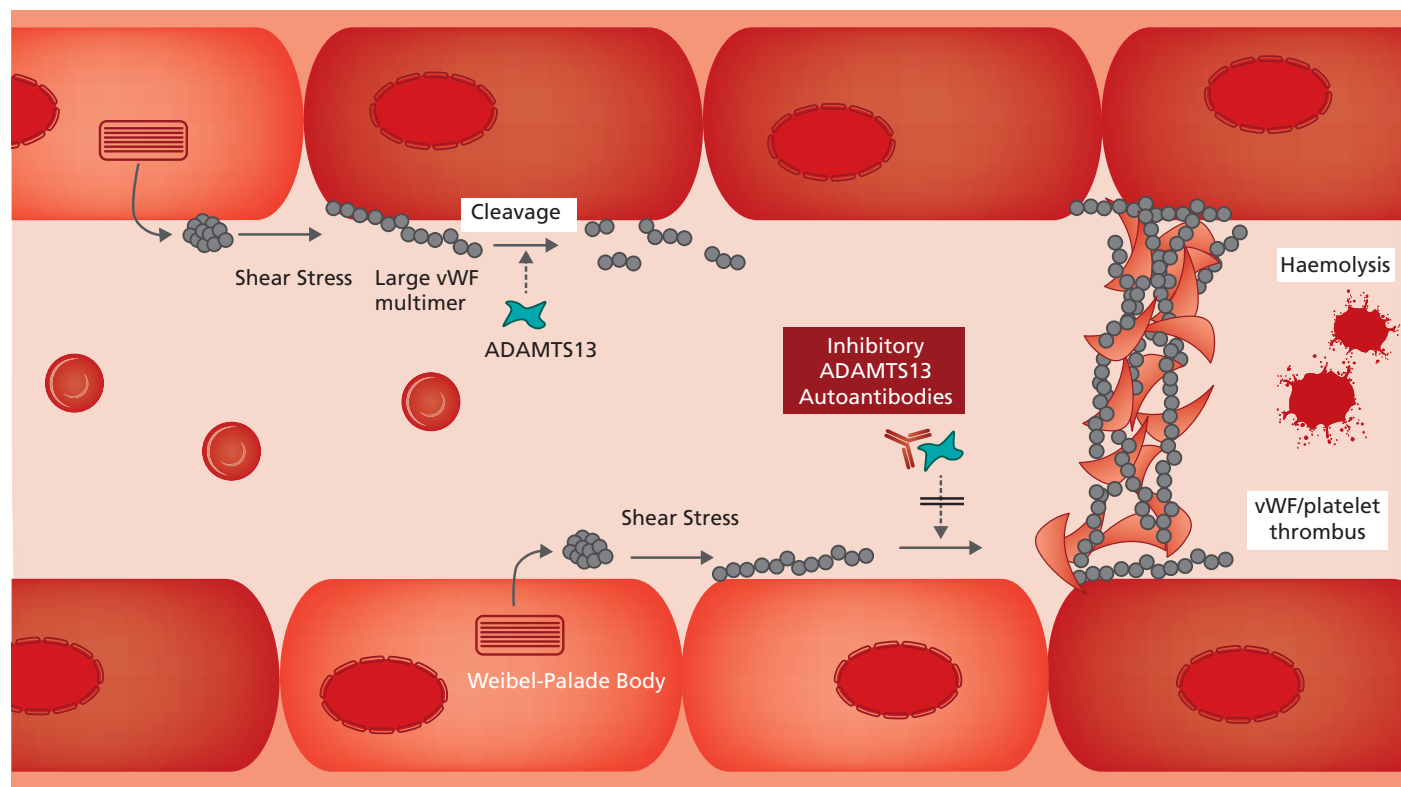
## 1.8 Ensuring High Quality Care that Delivers Optimal Use of Eculizumab

### 1.8.1 Combined aHUS & C3G Lab Diagnostics

To ensure optimal personalised care for our patients, the NRCTC has developed a combined biochemical, haematological, immunological and genetic diagnostic tool kit for aHUS and C3G. This allows for the rapid diagnosis of: atypical HUS; secondary thrombotic microangiopathies; C3 Glomerulopathies (including dense deposit disease, C3 glomerulonephritis and factor H related 5 nephropathy) and membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis. These assays also allow for therapeutic profiling to tailor the management of these diseases.

### 1.8.2 Measurement of ADAMTS13 Activity

Urgent measurement of ADAMTS13 is the essential initial test in the management of thrombotic microangiopathies as it determines divergent treatment strategies. A very low ADAMTS13 activity is diagnostic of thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP). Von Willebrand Factor (vWF) is a large protein that promotes blood clotting by adhering to platelets. Under normal conditions vWF is cleaved by ADAMTS13 to regulate platelet adherence and stop excessive blood clot formation. In TTP, ADAMTS13 deficiency, either acquired (ADAMTS13 autoantibodies) or inherited (recessive mutations in ADAMTS13) results in reduced cleavage of vWF. Platelets bind to vWF forming thrombi resulting in tissue ischemia, platelet consumption, and microangiopathic haemolytic anaemia. The initial management of both TTP and aHUS is plasma exchange except in children (KDIGO 2016) until the ADAMTS13 activity is available. Eculizumab is ineffective in the management of TTP therefore only once it has been excluded can Eculizumab be commenced for aHUS. To facilitate rapid management the NRCTC have a 7 days/week, same day service for ADAMTS13 measurements at the Newcastle Haematology laboratory led by Paul Murphy. Where testing cannot be carried out locally we provide this urgent analysis, including transport of specimens to the Newcastle laboratory.



**Thrombus formation in TTP**



### 1.8.3. Genetics

Since the initial description of mutations in the complement system in aHUS in Newcastle in 1998, genetic analysis has proved a key tool in the diagnosis of aHUS. The Northern Genetics Service (NGS) under Dr David Bourne has long provided complement genetic testing for both atypical HUS and C3G both nationally and globally. The NRCTC provides a fully integrated care pathway with genetics at its core to expedite optimal personalised patient care.

#### Complement Genetics

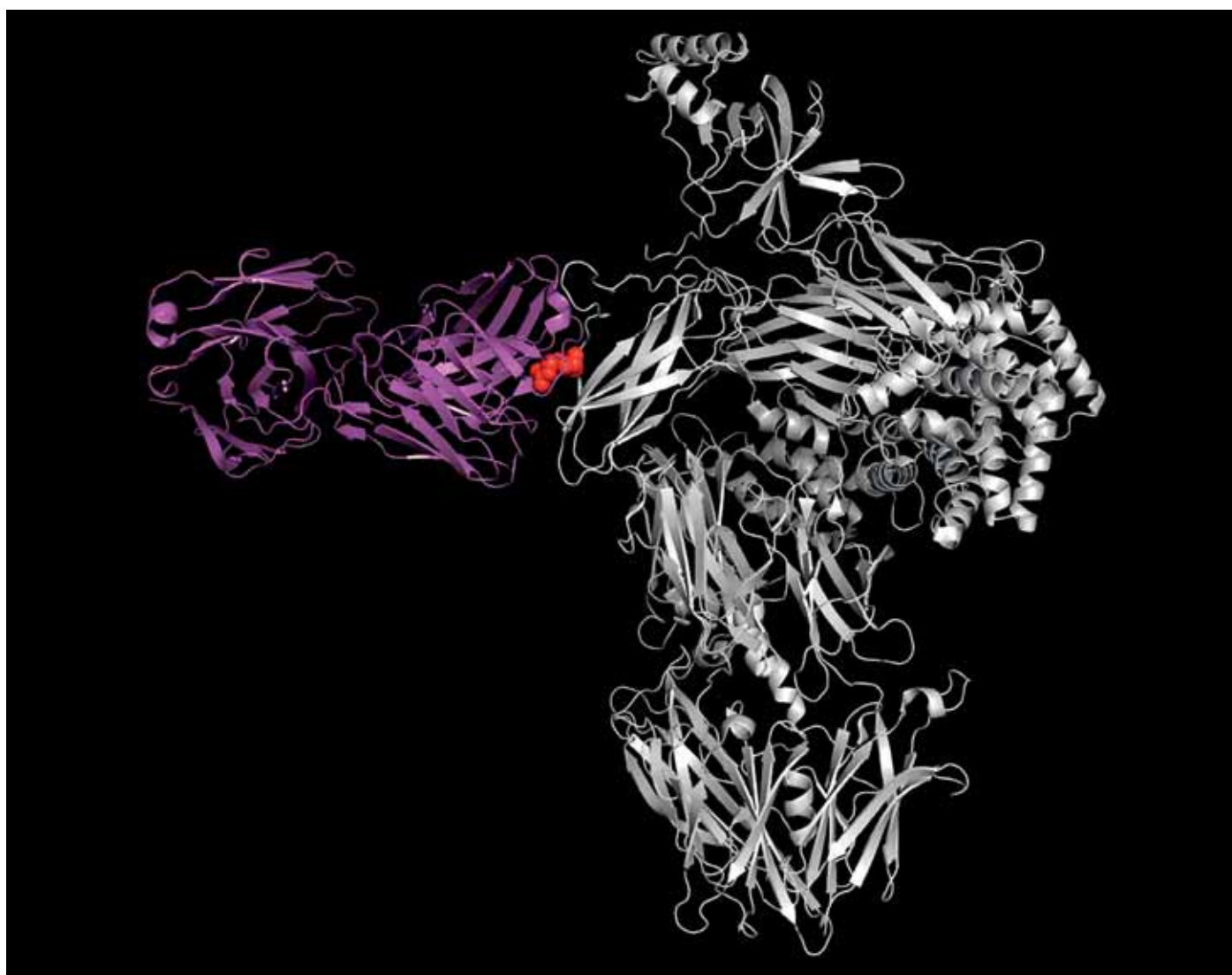
Standard sequencing of the complement genes factor H, factor I, *CD46*, *C3* and factor B is undertaken on all patients referred to the National aHUS Service. Many complement genes are found on chromosome 1 in a region called The Regulators of Complement Activation (RCA) gene cluster. This region is thought to have arisen from several large genomic duplications. The genetic architecture of this region predisposes to gene conversions and genomic rearrangements and therefore copy number variation analysis is critical to detect them.

#### Complement pharmacogenetics

In addition to providing definitive confirmation of complement mediated aHUS, the NGS lab also provides urgent complement pharmacogenetics analysis. A rare genetic polymorphism in the *C5* gene (c.2654G>A) predicts Eculizumab non-response. The consequent amino acid alteration prevents Eculizumab binding and thus complement activation is not inhibited. This analysis is immediately performed to identify patients who will not respond to Eculizumab allowing plasma exchange to be rapidly resumed.

#### Eculizumab non response

In addition to complement mediated aHUS, there are other genetic causes of thrombotic microangiopathies that are not complement mediated: *DGKE*; *MMACHC*; and *INF2*. Routine sequencing of the genes *DGKE* and *MMACHC* and bespoke analysis for *INF2* is undertaken to avoid ineffective treatment with Eculizumab and to allow other effective treatments to be instituted (e.g hydroxycobalamin in patients with *MMACHC* associated TMA).



**A polymorphism (red sphere) in the C5 protein (white) prevents Eculizumab (magenta) binding to C5 (protein database identification code: 515k)**

#### 1.8.4 Genetic research

The NRCTC / Newcastle University complement genetics group under Professor Kavanagh and the Northern Genetics Service are now fully integrated to provide rapid translational benefits to patients. The use of next generation sequencing technology either locally or via the 100,000 genome project allows the discovery of novel genes that predispose to aHUS. This combined entity is utilizing these cutting edge technologies to personalise management of our patients.

#### 1.8.5 Complement Analysis in aHUS & C3G

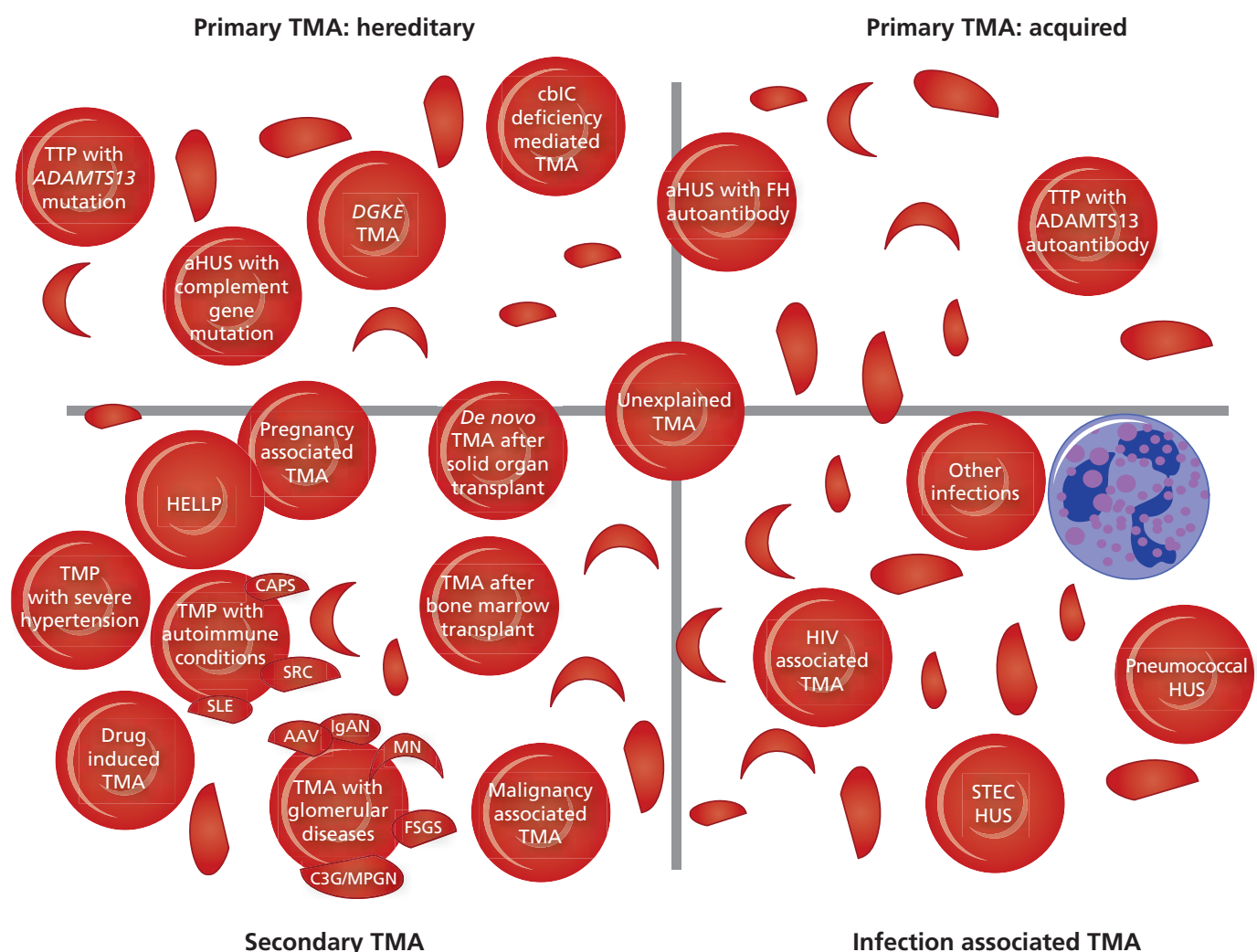
Complement assays are a key part of the diagnostic toolkit, providing evidence of complement activation, validation of genetic findings and allowing therapeutic profiling. The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals Blood Sciences' Complement Immunology laboratory overseen by Dr Adrian Heaps and Professor Claire Harris' Complement Therapeutics Research Group at the NRCTC collaborate closely to develop and validate a broad range of assays. All patients referred to the service will have C3, C4, FB, sC5b9, FH, FI, CH100, AP100 and CD46 measurements. In addition bespoke analysis can be undertaken in the university laboratories including complement activation products (C3, C5 and FB split products) and detection of very low levels of other complement proteins. Measurement of both complement proteins and their split products accurately profiles complement activation status and improves diagnostic potential.

#### 1.8.6 Autoimmune Complement Mediated aHUS & C3G

Dr Kevin Marchbank, head of autoimmune aHUS analytics, leads the complement autoantibody service. Autoantibodies to complement factor H are one of the commonest causes of complement mediated aHUS and are also found in C3G.

In addition to the detection of FH antibodies, an epitope mapping service is available to determine the likely functional consequences of these autoantibodies. C-terminal FH epitopes are most commonly detected in aHUS while N-terminal epitopes are usually detected in C3G. Tailored analysis of autoantibodies to other complement protein is available where appropriate.

In C3G, C3 Nephritic factors are routinely measured and C4 and C5 Nephritic factor assays are under development in Professor Claire Harris' group.



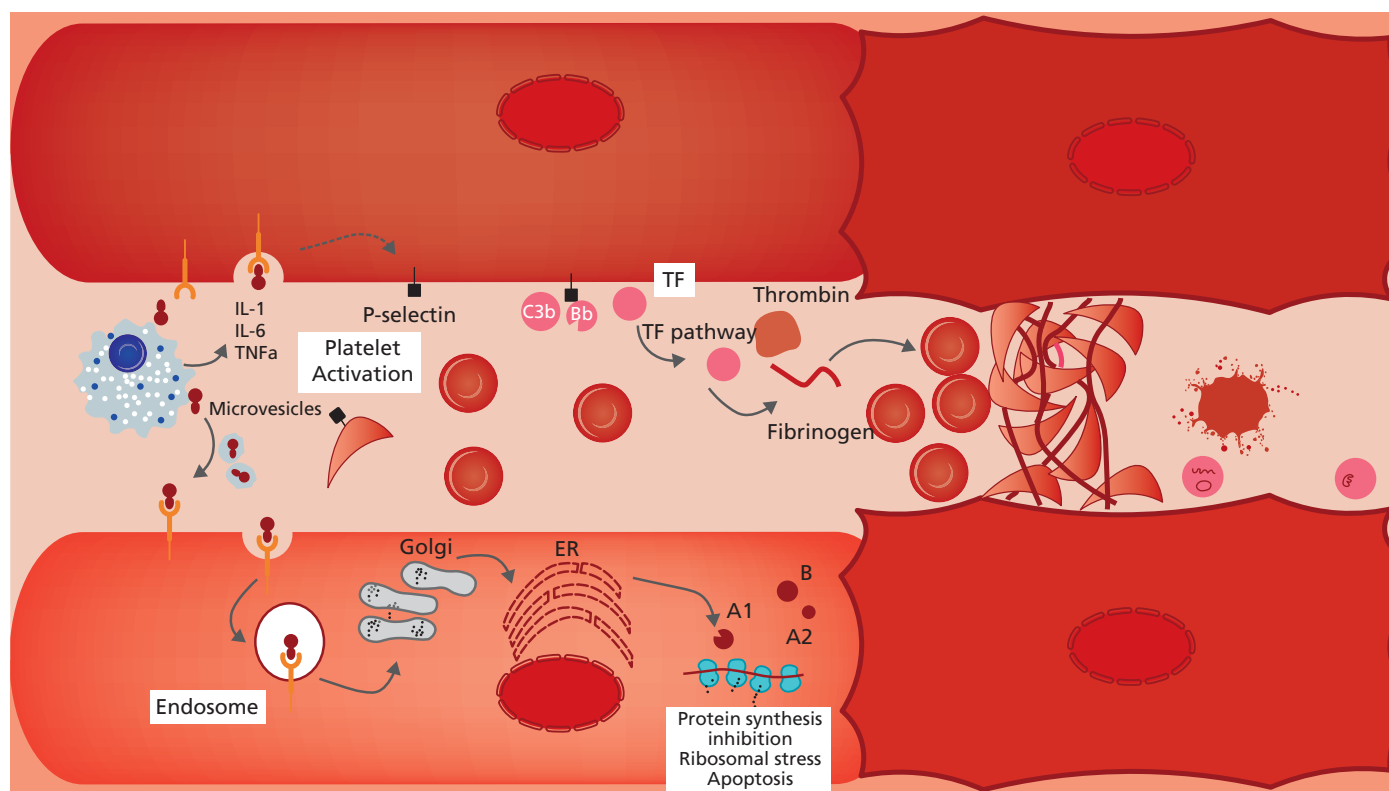
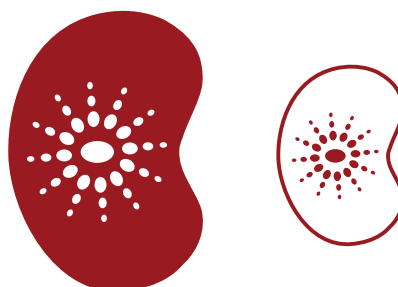
Causes of TMA

## 1.8.7 Microbiology Specialist Laboratories

### Enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* testing

Shiga Toxin induced HUS is one of the main causes of acute kidney injury in young children and occurs following infection with Shiga toxin-producing enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* (STEC) or *Shigella*. These bacteria produce Shiga toxin which is transported from the gut to the kidney via leucocytes, erythrocytes and platelets. The toxin is taken up by cells within the kidney where it inhibits protein synthesis, leading to endothelial cell death and exposure of the underlying basement membrane. Shiga toxin is also able to enhance the release of pro inflammatory cytokines, amplifying inflammatory events. Shiga toxin can also upregulate P-selectin and cause complement activation. The consequent thrombosis results in microangiopathic haemolytic anaemia and end organ damage.

As STEC-HUS is the commonest differential diagnosis of aHUS, rapid diagnosis is essential for timely appropriate treatment. The Public Health England reference laboratory in Colindale led by Dr Claire Jenkins provides these specialised services and we have established close links to expedite the results to facilitate decision making.



### Thrombus formation in STEC HUS

### Meningococcal vaccination response

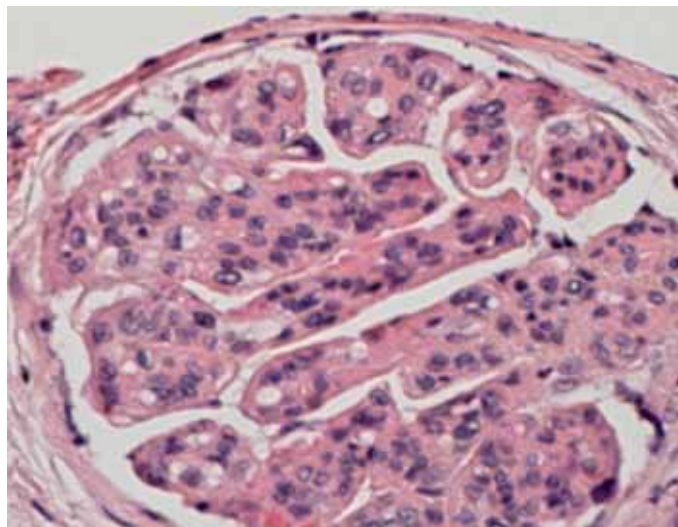
Susceptibility to infection with encapsulated organisms, particularly *Neisseria* infections, is the most serious side effect of Eculizumab treatment. Because of this meningococcal vaccination is mandatory for all patients receiving Eculizumab. The current policy is to vaccinate against Meningococcal serotypes ACWY and B. The Public Health England meningococcal reference unit in Manchester led by Prof Ray Borrow is the national centre for England and we work closely with him to assess the response to vaccination to provide optimal protection against infection.





### 1.8.8 Histopathology

The NRCTC work in close collaboration with the Imperial C3G team to provide expert review of renal biopsies as part of the implementation of the policy for Eculizumab treatment of recurrent C3G following renal transplantation. Eligibility for treatment with Eculizumab is dependent on confirmation of C3G as the original cause of kidney failure and its recurrence in the transplanted kidney. Eligibility also requires the presence of crescentic disease and of C9 staining in the transplant graft. A protocol has been in place since the start of the policy for Eculizumab for recurrent C3G following renal transplantation, ensuring appropriate samples are sent to the histopathology department at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust.



*MPGN on Renal Biopsy*

## 1.9 Global Reach for Optimal Patient Care



### European Reference Network on Rare Kidney Disease (ERKNet)

ERKNet is the European Reference Network for rare kidney diseases. It is a consortium of 38 expert paediatric and adult nephrology centres across the European Union providing healthcare to more than 40,000 patients with rare disorders of the kidney. The NRCTC is proud to have been selected as a reference centre for TMA for ERKNet. ERKNet offers virtual consultation services to physicians throughout Europe who need advice for challenging cases with a rare kidney disease. The NRCTC has already demonstrated its global reach with consultations not only across Europe but also Asia, Africa and North and South America.

## 1.10 Education and Audit

### Improving Clinician Knowledge

The team at the NRCTC is committed to improving clinician knowledge to enhance patient care. As part of this programme, we have delivered presentations to thousands of delegates across local, national and international platforms.



### Ongoing Audit and Review of Practice

The NRCTC undertakes constant audit and research to optimise practice. In the last year we have reviewed all cases of *DGKE* mediated aHUS and bone marrow transplant associated TMA and this data was presented at UK Kidney week by two of our research fellows.

### Nurse Education

Our specialist nurses have continued to present at a number of nursing study days in the UK and internationally to raise the awareness of the National aHUS Service, the disease process and its treatment options. Regular updates are held for nurses working in the teams delivering treatment to our patients in their home. Our specialist nurses also presented at the Trust's Nursing and Midwifery Conference and at UK Kidney Week.

Our specialist Nurses are also enrolled on the post graduate certificate course in Genomic Medicine and have completed several modules, including genetic counselling.

## 1.11 Research

*Professor Neil Sheerin is the Chief investigator for:*

### Stopping Eculizumab Treatment Safely in aHUS Study (SETS aHUS):

The NICE appraisal recommended the use of Eculizumab on condition that a research programme with robust methods to evaluate when withdrawing treatment or reducing the dose might occur was developed. In addition, although the product licence is for life-long Eculizumab there is growing evidence that this may not be necessary and a proportion of patients may be able to withdraw safely from treatment. A National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Technology Assessment award is funding a single arm, Bayesian study of Eculizumab withdrawal in 30 patients currently on treatment. The primary endpoint is patient outcome over a two year period; and not relapse which we accept will occur but predict that relapse can be effectively treated with reintroduction of Eculizumab. The protocol will test the effectiveness of self-monitoring to detect relapse. There are also embedded health economic and qualitative arms of the study.

The protocol has ethical and MHRA approval and will open for recruitment later this year.

.....  
*Professor David Kavanagh is the Chief investigator in the UK for:*

### CL011\_168 Trial

The CL011\_168 Trial is a randomised, double-blind placebo-controlled phase 2 study evaluating the safety and efficacy of Avacopan (CCX168) in patients with C3 Glomerulopathy.

*Dr. Sally Johnson is the Chief Investigator for two multicentre studies in the UK.*

### ECULizumab in Shiga-Toxin producing Escherichia Coli Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome (ECUSTEC):

ECUSTEC is a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial which aims to determine whether Eculizumab reduces the severity of STEC-HUS in children. The trial opened in July 2017 and will recruit 134 children with STEC-HUS over 4 years. Twelve paediatric renal units across the UK are participating in the trial. If effective, Eculizumab may reduce the number of children requiring dialysis or developing severe multi-system complications from STEC-HUS.

### National Study of MPGN and C3G:

The National Study of MPGN and C3G was a longitudinal cohort study which brought together clinical, pathological, genetic and functional data of patients with these rare but devastating complement-mediated renal conditions. The aims of the study are to understand genotype/phenotype correlation, identify novel pathogenic mechanisms and identify factors associated with disease severity. Funding has been provided by Kids Kidney Research and the NIHR Rare Disease Translational Research Collaboration. Nearly 300 patients, both adult and paediatric patients have been recruited from 31 centres over 5 years. Recruitment has now closed and work is ongoing to fully characterise this cohort and to stratify patients in preparation for potential trials of therapeutic complement inhibition.

## Translational Research at the Newcastle University Complement Therapeutics Research Group

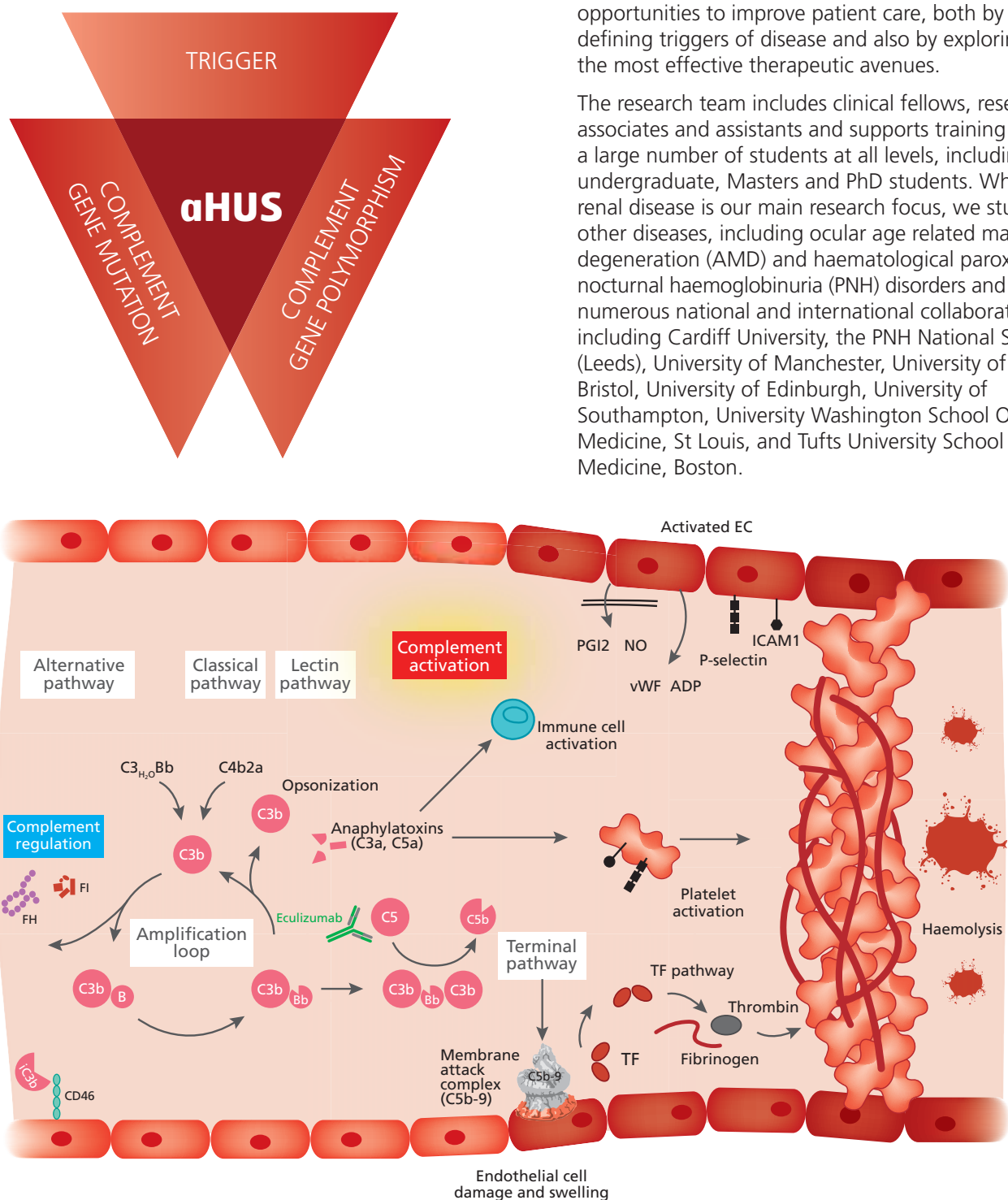
Dr Marchbank, Professor Harris and Professor Kavanagh also oversee an active bench to bedside research programme within the NRCTC. Research in the group encompasses basic, translational and clinical science, ranging from deciphering of disease mechanisms using intricate *in vitro* assays, through animal models of disease, to drug design for clinical use and testing of therapeutics.

Thriving collaboration between the scientific and clinical teams in Newcastle enables in-depth mechanistic insight into a number of renal diseases. This is provided by probing functional consequences of disease-associated gene and protein changes as they are identified in patient populations. Mechanistic

data, together with in-house multiplexed biomarker profiling, provides powerful knowledge into the causes of acute and chronic kidney disease. Insight into disease provided as a consequence of genetic, functional and biomarker analyses not only streamlines personalised management of patients, by enabling stratification for clinical trials, but also guides discovery of novel and targeted drugs.

Our drug discovery portfolio is supported by numerous interactions at a national and global level. We welcome collaboration with industry in order to support drug development, whether external or within Newcastle. Our preclinical work is supported by development of novel *in vivo* experimental models of renal disease, such as aHUS. These models provide unparalleled opportunities to improve patient care, both by defining triggers of disease and also by exploring the most effective therapeutic avenues.

The research team includes clinical fellows, research associates and assistants and supports training of a large number of students at all levels, including undergraduate, Masters and PhD students. While renal disease is our main research focus, we study other diseases, including ocular age related macular degeneration (AMD) and haematological paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria (PNH) disorders and enjoy numerous national and international collaborations including Cardiff University, the PNH National Service (Leeds), University of Manchester, University of Bristol, University of Edinburgh, University of Southampton, University Washington School Of Medicine, St Louis, and Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston.



**Thrombus formation in patients with aHUS**



## 2. Service Activity

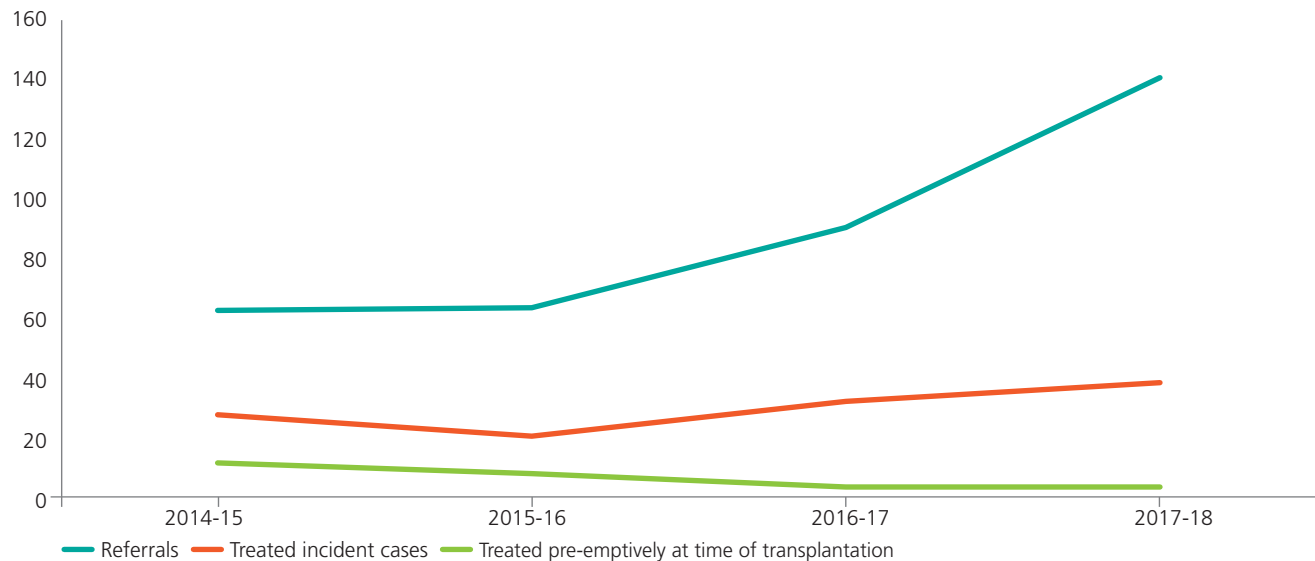
The National aHUS Service and the National C3G Service have had referrals from throughout England since they were commissioned in 2016. The reporting period of this report is from April 1st 2017 until March 31st 2018.



## 2.1 aHUS service activity

### Increasing annual activity

Referrals to the National aHUS Service have been increasing year on year. The annual referral numbers to the service in each of the last 4 complete financial years are summarised in below. During the same reporting period, the number of incident patients with aHUS treated with Eculizumab remains broadly unchanged. However, pre-emptive use of Eculizumab at time of transplantation in prevalent aHUS patients to prevent recurrent disease has decreased. The higher numbers of patients transplanted with pre-emptive Eculizumab in the earlier years of the service reflects the accumulation of patients who were unable to have transplants, due to the risk of life threatening aHUS relapse before Eculizumab was available. It also emphasises the success of Eculizumab in preventing patients going to end-stage renal failure and requiring transplantation.



**National aHUS Service annual activity.** Line chart shows number of patients referred to the National aHUS Service, the number of patients recommended for treatment of incident cases of aHUS with Eculizumab and the number of prevalent aHUS patients receiving pre-emptive Eculizumab at time of transplantation in each of the last 4 complete financial years.

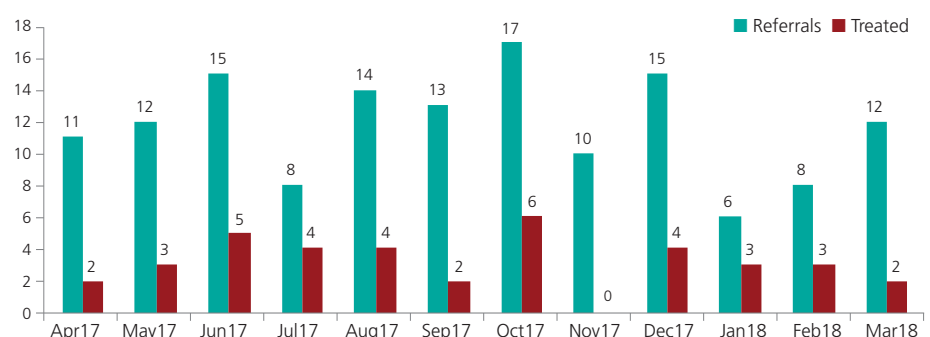
### Referrals during the 2017-2018 reporting period

In the 2017/18 reporting period, the National aHUS Service has received 141 referrals for Eculizumab in patients with a potential diagnosis of aHUS. During the same reporting period, Eculizumab was recommended in a total of 38 patients. The monthly activity is summarised in the chart below.

Of the patients referred during this period, as of 31st March 2018, 17 patients improved clinically and remained on Eculizumab. Of these, 29% had a complement genetic variant. An additional 11 patients improved clinically but Eculizumab was subsequently withdrawn. In 4 cases, an alternative diagnosis was identified. Eculizumab was also withdrawn in another 10 patients who did not recover renal function.

In total, 77 patients that were referred to the National aHUS Service for assessment were not recommended for treatment with Eculizumab. Seven cases (9%) of this cohort had a rare genetic variant, but were not treated due to spontaneous recovery, ineligibility for Eculizumab or irreversible kidney damage.

An additional 22 patients were referred to the National aHUS Service for consideration of Eculizumab pre-emptively in case of disease relapse or recurrence. Following genetic testing, any patients who are at end-stage renal failure and considered high risk of recurrent disease are approved for pre-emptive treatment with Eculizumab at time of transplantation. Details of the incident and prevalent patients approved for pre-emptive treatment with Eculizumab during this reporting period can be found in section 3.2.

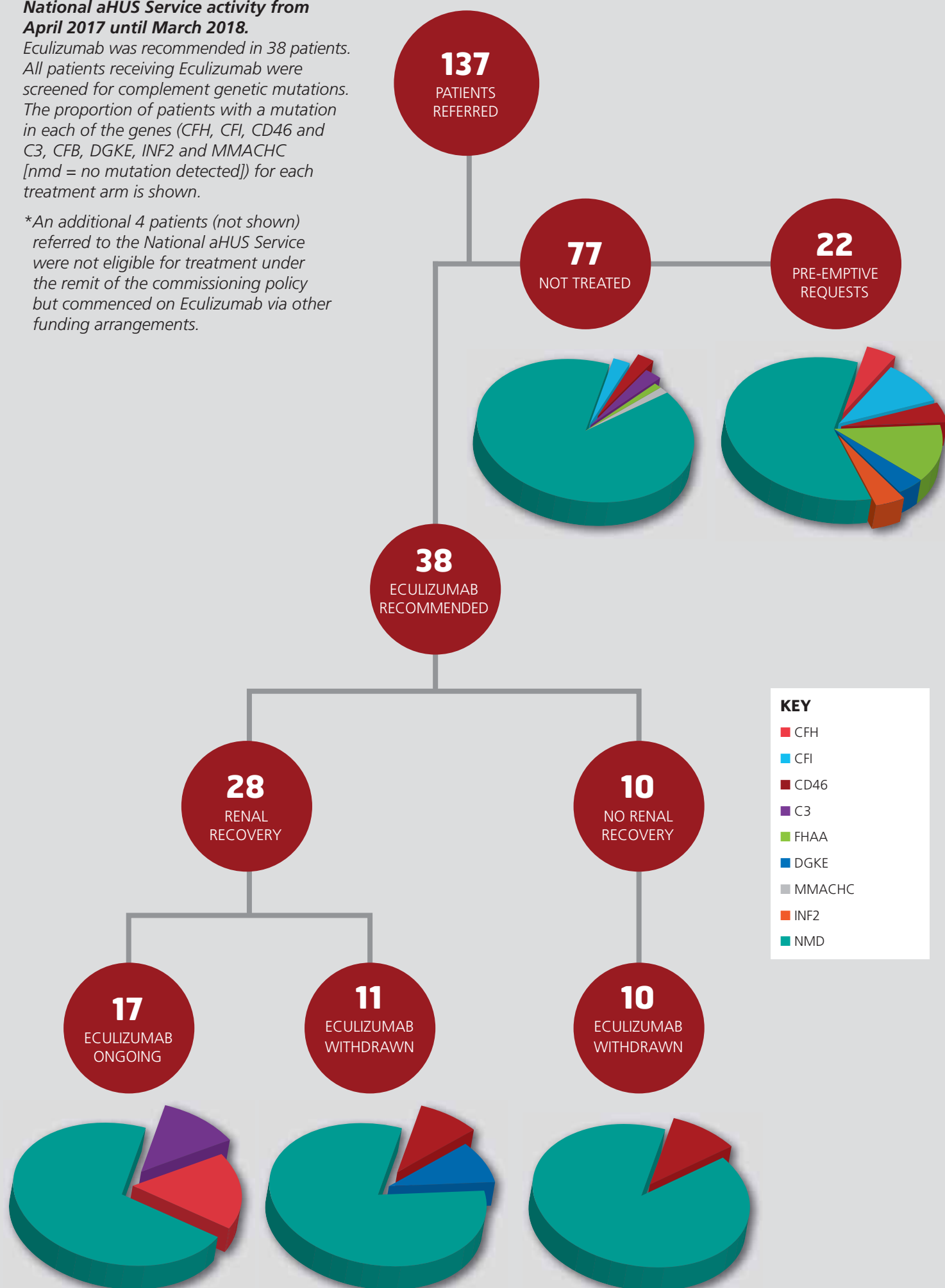


**National aHUS Service monthly activity.** Bar chart shows number of patients referred to the National aHUS Service and number of patients recommended for treatment with Eculizumab in the reporting period from April 2017 until March 2018.

**National aHUS Service activity from April 2017 until March 2018.**

Eculizumab was recommended in 38 patients. All patients receiving Eculizumab were screened for complement genetic mutations. The proportion of patients with a mutation in each of the genes (CFH, CFI, CD46 and C3, CFB, DGKE, INF2 and MMACHC [nmd = no mutation detected]) for each treatment arm is shown.

\*An additional 4 patients (not shown) referred to the National aHUS Service were not eligible for treatment under the remit of the commissioning policy but commenced on Eculizumab via other funding arrangements.



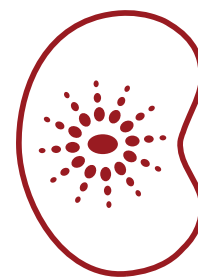
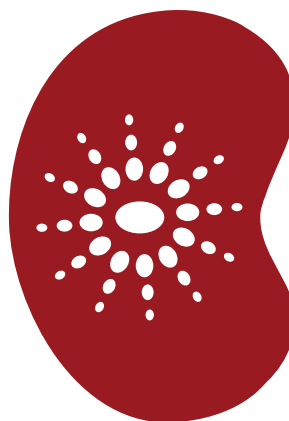


## 2.2 C3G service activity

In the period between publication of the policy in February 2017 and April 2017, an expert C3G panel was convened between the NRCTC and the Imperial C3G service. A referral pathway was set up for clinicians to refer patients for assessment. The initial point of contact was the NRCTC via email: [C3.glomerulopathy@nhs.net](mailto:C3.glomerulopathy@nhs.net).

This section reports the activity of the NRCTC with respect to the clinical commissioning policy for Eculizumab in recurrent C3G in the period April 2017 until March 2018. No referrals were made prior to April 2017.

There were 12 referrals to the NRCTC with respect to the C3G policy. Only 2 cases fulfilled the eligibility criteria as set out in the commissioning policy and were commenced on Eculizumab. Both cases demonstrated stabilisation / improvement in graft function and were eligible to be considered for further courses of Eculizumab in the event of further deterioration in graft function.

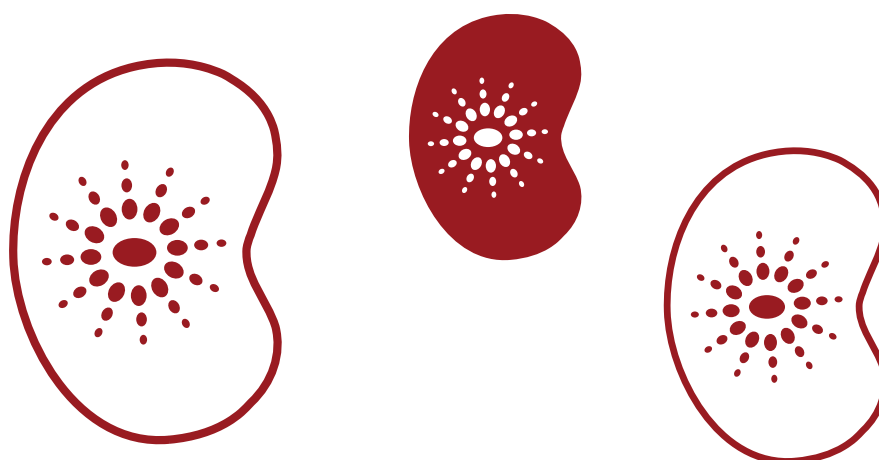


# 3. Performance Analysis

The service measures its performance across the NHS outcomes framework domains and quality indicators, detailed below.

Quality Requirement	Threshold	Method of Measurement	Consequence of Breach
<b>Domain 1: Preventing people dying prematurely</b>			
Zero avoidable deaths in patients with a diagnosis of complement mediated aHUS (as per current diagnostic criteria)	Zero deaths	To be notified to the commissioners including HSS national team within 24 hours	To be addressed in annual service audit meeting
<b>Domain 2: Enhancing the quality of life of people with long-term conditions</b>			
All patients with aHUS who are eligible for renal transplant will be listed for transplant	100% of patients on transplant waiting list	Annual audit	To be addressed in annual service audit meeting
Publish an annual report from the aHUS registry	Report published to agreed timetable	Report received by NHS England	To be addressed in annual audit meeting
<b>Domain 3: Helping people to recover from episodes of ill-health or following injury</b>			
To provide advice to provider centres within 24 hours of request on treatment	90%	Annual audit report	To be addressed in annual service audit meeting
Written protocols agreed with units	100%	Annual audit report	To be addressed in annual audit meeting
<b>Domain 4: Ensuring that people have a positive experience of care</b>			
Achieve 90% data completeness of the aHUS register to which referring units are mandated to supply data	90%	Annual audit report	To be addressed in annual service audit meeting

## National aHUS Service - Quality Indicators



### 3.1 Domain 1: Preventing people dying prematurely

#### *Zero avoidable deaths in patients with a diagnosis of complement-mediated aHUS*

##### **No patient died of aHUS in England in 2017/2018**

As of the 31st March 2018 there were 114 patients receiving Eculizumab under the shared care agreement of the National aHUS Service.

When the National aHUS Service is notified of the death of a patient a case review is performed to determine whether aHUS was active at the time and therefore contributed to the death.

The case reviews demonstrated that patients who died had appropriate management of their illness and that their deaths could not be attributed to a diagnosis of complement-mediated aHUS or its treatment.

##### **Infection Prevention in patients receiving Eculizumab**

We also recognise that there is a risk of morbidity and mortality due to the risk of infection in patients receiving Eculizumab. All clinicians are informed about the risk of meningococcal infection when their patients are approved for treatment. Meningococcal vaccination is required prior to the initiation of Eculizumab treatment and long term antibiotic prophylaxis is recommended. One of the continuing challenges has been obtaining meningococcal antibody titres post vaccination to monitor the vaccination response (see domain 3).

Medical alert cards have been sent to patients receiving treatment to ensure they receive appropriate care when seeking medical treatment. The cards also contain the service website and contact details.

##### **Familial risk of aHUS**

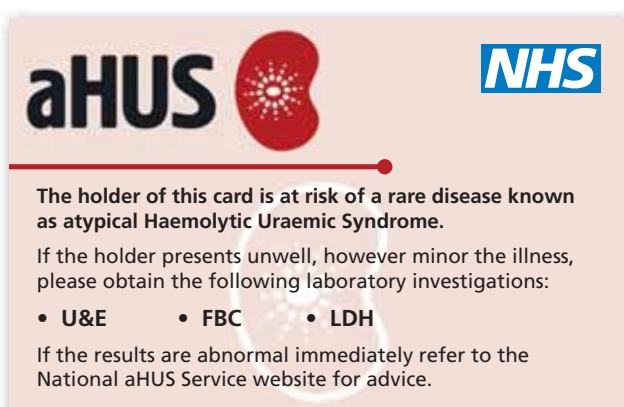
We are now able to offer genetic testing to all relatives of aHUS patients who carry a genetic mutation to identify those who are at risk of developing the disease in the future. Early recognition of the disease is important in preventing the morbidity and mortality associated with aHUS. At risk family members are provided with a medical alert card, stating that they are at risk of developing aHUS and indicating where information can be found on our website.

##### **Recommendations:**

- Ongoing regular patient case review meetings
- To continually review our processes for data collection and completion
- Ensure our meningococcal prevention monitoring is accurate with information available on the National aHUS Service website
- Advise all at risk relatives are counselled about the risk of disease and offered genetic screening
- Highlighting risks of meningococcal infection through patient roadshows and newsletters



*Patient-held alert card - meningococcal risk*



*Patient-held alert card at- risk of developing aHUS*





### 3.2 Domain 2: Enhancing the quality of life of people with long term conditions

***All patients with aHUS who are eligible for renal transplant will be listed for transplant***

***All patients referred to the NRCTC who are eligible for renal transplantation are approved for pre-emptive Eculizumab at the time of renal transplantation.***

All patients with aHUS who are being considered for renal transplantation should be referred to the National aHUS Service for consideration of pre-emptive Eculizumab as per our transplantation protocol. We have a database of patients with aHUS who have been assessed for pre-emptive Eculizumab to personalise their management. Our patients undergo extensive genetic and autoimmune testing to characterise their risk of recurrent aHUS at the time of transplant. These patients are at risk of their disease recurring following transplantation and therefore approval is given for Eculizumab to be administered at the time of transplant.

Three patients who had been approved for pre-emptive Eculizumab received a renal transplant

between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018. In this same period, a further four patients were approved for transplantation with pre-emptive Eculizumab. Patients approved for pre-emptive Eculizumab are reviewed at regular meetings. On 31st March 2018, there were 23 patients pre-approved for Eculizumab to enable listing for renal transplantation.

#### **Recommendations:**

- To commence conversations about transplantation with the referring team at the earliest juncture
- Bi monthly MDT reviewing patients placed on the pre-emptive list

### 3.3 Domain 3: Helping people to recover from episodes of ill-health or following injury

***To provide advice to referring centres within 24 hours of request of treatment***

***All referrals to the National aHUS Service were answered within 24 hours***

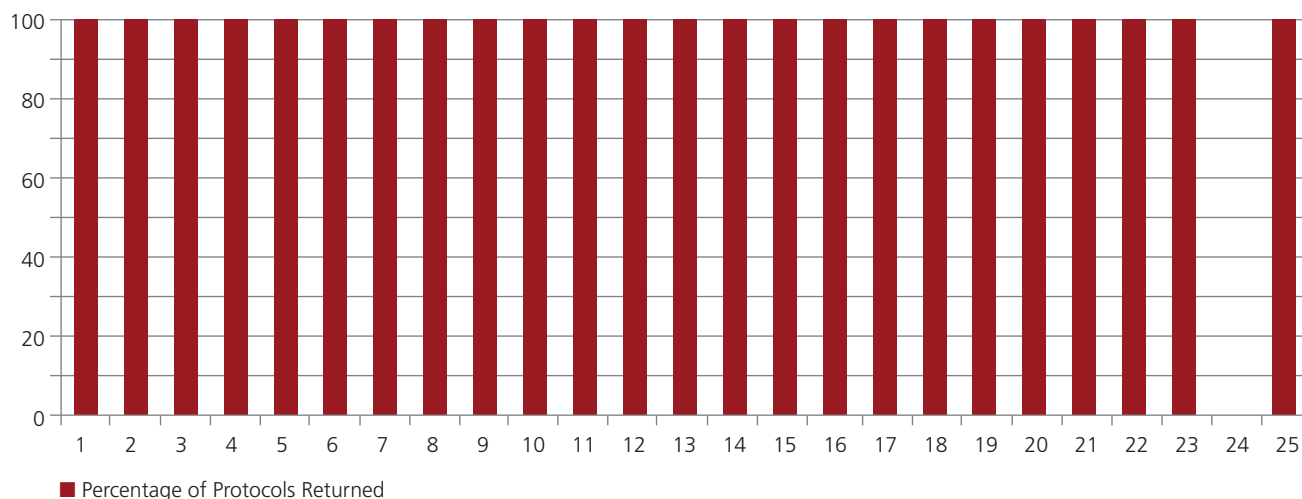
We provide a 24 hours, 7 days a week consultant led on call service. The referral process has been shared nationwide in newsletters and at national meetings to the medical community. The service website was launched in 2017 and has an emergency referral page to ensure the referring team have all the essential information required for making a referral and how to contact the on call clinician.



One hundred and forty one patients were referred to the service in this first full year of commissioning, with a possible diagnosis of aHUS. We achieved 100%, for the quality indicator of providing advice to the referring units within 24 hours; the standard required is 90%.

### Written protocols agreed with units

Shared-care Protocols were implemented in 2017 and are forwarded to clinicians at the outset of treatment as part of the referral pathway. We have 100% return rate from all units except for one, resulting in an overall return rate of 76%.



*Concordance of return of shared care protocol. There is 100% return rate from all units except for one.*

### Recommendations:

- Keep service website updated with details of our referral pathway
- Work with NHS England to ensure 100% & concordance

## 3.4 Domain 4: Ensuring that people have a positive experience of care

**Achieve 90% data completeness of the aHUS register to which referring units are mandated to supply data**

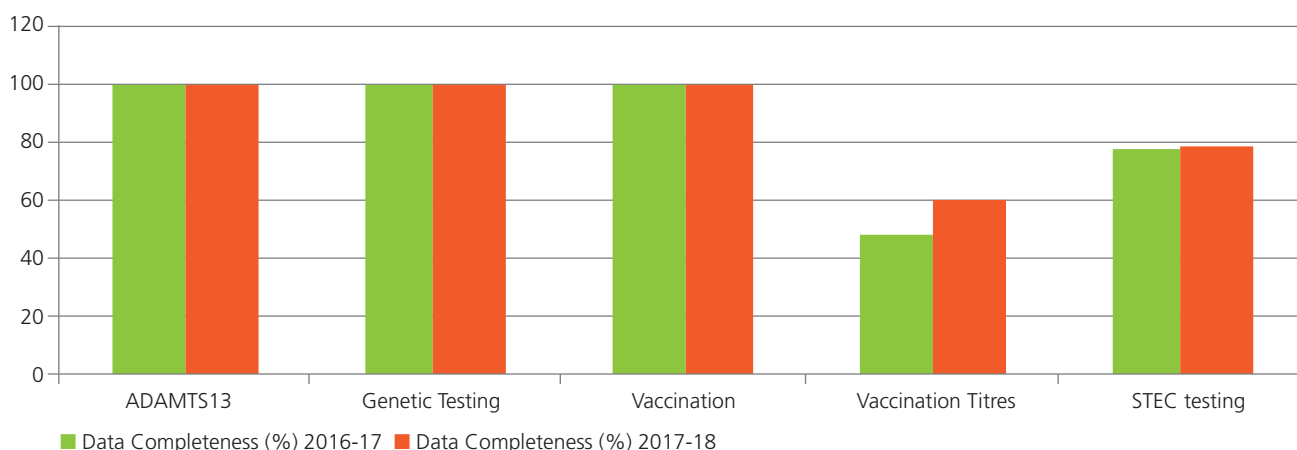
**91% data completeness in 5 audited domains**

Our key aims within this domain are to ensure that an accurate diagnosis of aHUS is made and to protect patients from treatment-related harm. A diagnostic checklist is forwarded to the referring clinician for completion to ensure data completeness. To ensure all relevant data is completed for patients commencing treatment, we have introduced a visual referral system which highlights what data is outstanding for the patient. All patients are followed up at one month to review their outcome.

There are five categories of data we measure the standard of data completeness against for those patients approved for treatment:

- ADAMTS13 testing
- Genetic testing
- Vaccination against Meningococcal Infection
- Initial vaccination titres
- Shiga Toxin E. Coli (STEC) testing

The results of the data collected from patients requiring ADAMTS13 testing, genetic testing, vaccination, monitoring of vaccination response and STEC testing and are shown below. Data collection in three of the five categories was 100% complete thus achieving the 90% standard.



**Data completeness of the aHUS register.** Performance has been measured against 5 categories of data and compared with the previous reporting period on all patients treated. Data for genetic testing, vaccination and ADAMTS13 was above the 90% quality standard. Vaccination titres and STEC testing are routinely requested and compliance has improved but the data completeness remains less than 90%.



### **ADAMTS13 Testing**

ADAMTS13 testing was completed on all patients deemed necessary.

### **Genetic Testing**

All patients that we approved for Eculizumab had genetic testing. Genetic testing was also offered to patients referred to the service that were not approved for Eculizumab.

Our specialist nurses completed a short course in 2017 to enable recruitment of patients who do not have a genetic variant and have received Eculizumab treatment, into the 100000 genome project. Recruitment has now closed.

### **Meningococcal Prevention (Vaccination and Vaccination Titres)**

All patients who commenced treatment received meningococcal vaccination (ACWY and BEXSERO).

In this reporting period, a bespoke laboratory form for measurement of meningococcal vaccination titres was uploaded to our website to allow easy accessibility to the Manchester lab. This has increased our data completeness to 60% from last year's figure of 48%. This was introduced not only to improve our compliance, but to assist local clinicians ordering unfamiliar investigations.

However we continue to have issues obtaining titres at the level of the clinician and/or the patient that will need addressing.

### **STEC Testing**

STEC-HUS is a self-resolving condition that can be quickly distinguished from aHUS following prompt STEC testing. In most patients treated with Eculizumab (excepting post-partum, post-transplant or patients with a known mutation), the results of STEC testing would change our recommendation to treat with eculizumab. Results of STEC testing were available in 79% of such patients.

We have investigated possible reasons for STEC testing not being completed. This revealed microbiology laboratories routinely discard formed stool specimens sent for STEC testing. Therefore to improve compliance when a patient is referred we send the Colindale Public Health Laboratory form and propose the local team liaise with their microbiology laboratory regarding the specimen.

### **Recommendations**

- Continue to investigate methods to improve compliance with vaccination titres and STEC testing
- Clinician engagement and education
- Sending forms direct to patients when discharged
- Work with NHS England to improve compliance with nationally agreed protocols

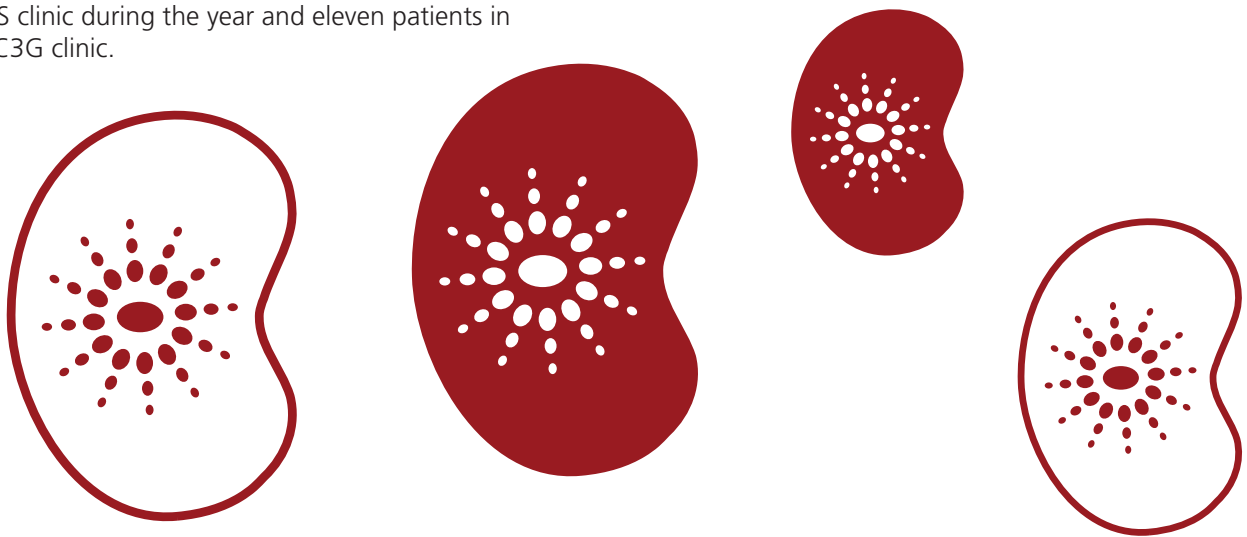


## Out Patients Clinics

Outpatient Clinics were commenced in 2017; each patient is offered a minimum one hour appointment which may be increased to accommodate other family members. During the consultation the patients are provided with a personalised description of their disease and the opportunity to ask specific questions they may have. Our patients are also informed about clinical research trials which may benefit them. Family member are also counselled about the risk to themselves due to their relative's diagnosis. Thirty five patients were reviewed in the aHUS clinic during the year and eleven patients in the C3G clinic.

## Recommendations:

- Explore funding streams to assist patients to attend outpatient appointments in Newcastle
- Nurse led clinics
- New patients to be sent a letter from Specialist nurses



# 4. Achievement of Performance Targets

The results compiled in this section encompass the activity of the National aHUS Service from the 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018. The performance targets are summarised below.

Quality Requirement	Threshold	Percentage achieved
<b>Domain 1: Preventing people dying prematurely</b>		
Zero avoidable deaths in patients with a diagnosis of complement mediated aHUS (as per current diagnostic criteria)	Zero avoidable deaths	Zero avoidable deaths
<b>Domain 2: Enhancing the quality of life of people with long- term conditions</b>		
All patients with aHUS who are eligible for renal transplant will be listed for transplant	100% of patients on transplant waiting list	100%
<b>Domain 3: Helping people to recover from episodes of ill-health or following injury</b>		
To provide advice to provider centres within 24 hours of request on treatment	90%	100%
Written protocols agreed with units	100%	76%*
<b>Domain 4: Ensuring that people have a positive experience of care</b>		
Achieve 90% data completeness of the of the aHUS register to which referring units are mandated to supply data	90%	91%

**National aHUS Service – Performance during reporting period from 1st April 2017 until 31st March 2018.**  
We met the performance targets for domains 1, 2 and 4. \* further details are reported in section 3.3.



## 5. Online NRCTC

One of our key remits is to provide high quality advice to patients and clinicians about C3G and aHUS. We have previously developed a website (<http://www.atypicalhus.co.uk/>) providing both lay and professional information and advice. This is continually updated with clinical information and access to our newsletters and events throughout the year and is a valuable resource for patients and their families. This year, we have also produced a video that describes the disease mechanisms and treatment of aHUS – this is now featured on our website. We also share news and events via social media on Twitter (@NationalaHUS).

For clinicians the website continues to serve as a portal to access our full range of services as well as providing an up to date summary of complement mediated renal diseases and their treatments. An emergency referrals page (<http://www.atypicalhus.co.uk/emergency-referrals/>) highlights a 24 hour 7 day a week consultant led on call service. It provides a repository for clinicians to download diagnostic checklists, combined laboratory diagnostics forms including meningococcal and STEC request forms, as well as our shared care protocol.



**Screenshot from the website of the National Renal Complement Therapeutics Centre** depicts our video that describes aHUS disease mechanisms and treatment. The website also provides information for patients and their clinicians and also the referral pathway for Eculizumab [[www.atypicalhus.co.uk](http://www.atypicalhus.co.uk)].

## 6. Patient Roadshows

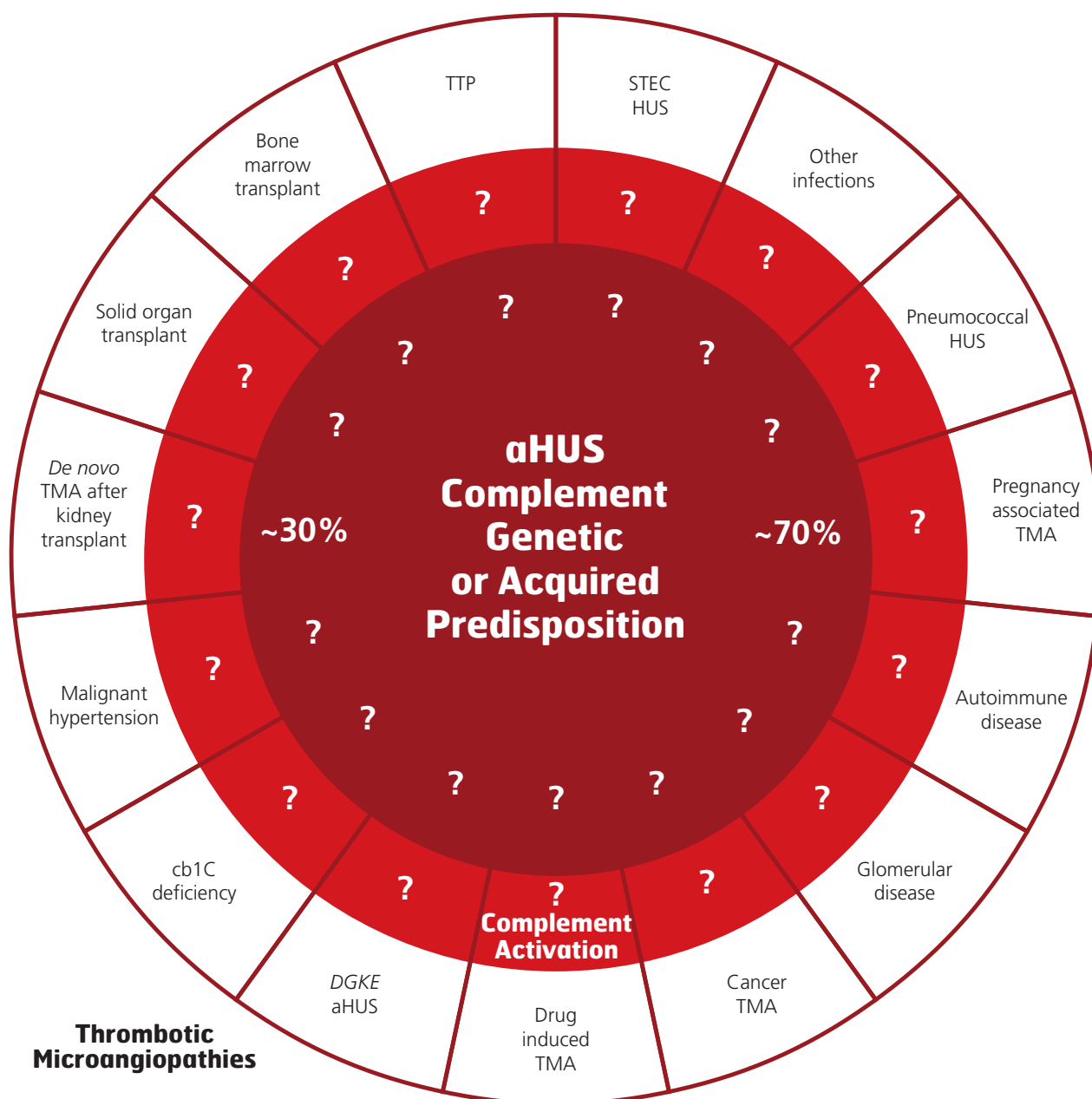
Our first patient roadshow was held in Durham in March 2018. Patients were invited from North East of England and North Yorkshire, the roadshow was also publicised in the newsletter. The feedback from the day was positive. Patients and their families enjoyed talking to the team in an informal setting, listening to the team deliver presentations about their disease and the future and meeting other patients. Contact details were exchanged between the patients during the day. Following the success of Durham we held a second roadshow in Manchester. Patients were invited from the North West and South West Yorkshire. A roadshow in Bristol has been organised for this autumn for patients living in the South West, West Midlands and Hampshire. Dates will be planned for other regions in 2019.







# 7. Complement Research at the NRCTC



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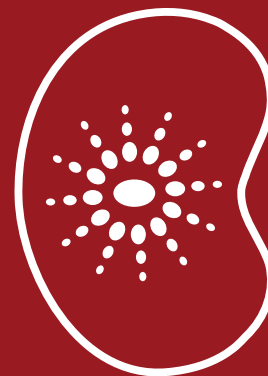
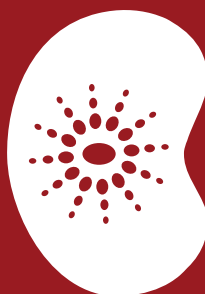
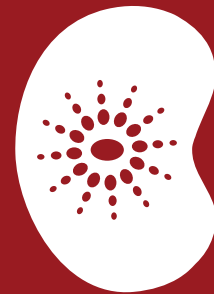
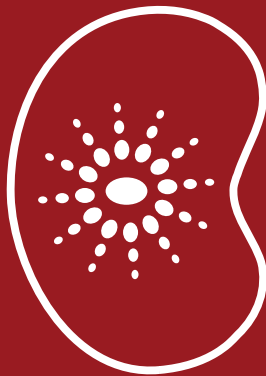
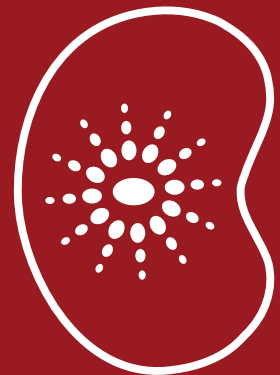
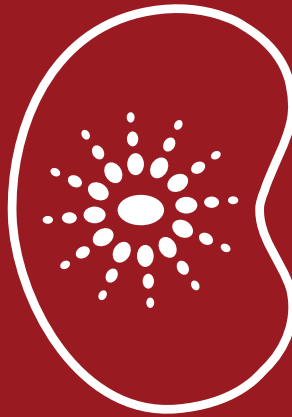
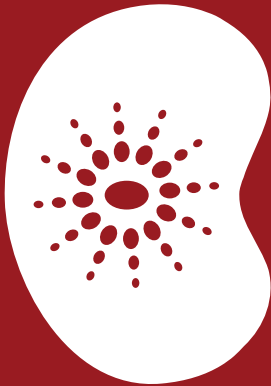
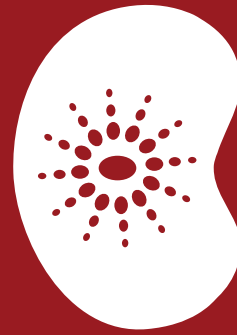
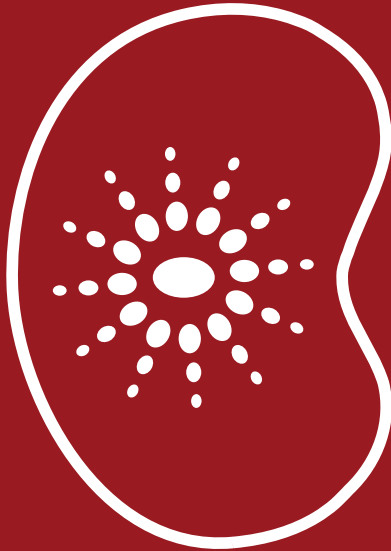


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