A patient in need.

Author
Tina Watson Transfusion Practitioner, GG&C Health Board
Acknowledgments: Andy Jones, Lab Manager, Dr P Clarke, Consultant Haematologist, Dr C O’Neill, GP, Julia Lussier, Transfusion Practitioner.

Background
A patient who lived on a small remote island, had been ill for a number of years and now required palliative care, this included the regular transfusion of red cells and platelets. To receive these, the patient was attending hospital for the treatment, however this involved a boat journey which was 2.5 hours each way.

It was indicated by the Consultant Haematologist and General Practitioner (GP) that if the products could be given to the patient at home this would be of great benefit. Home transfusion had not been carried out within this area previously.

Methods
The practicalities were scoped by the Transfusion Practitioner, local GP, lab manager and Consultant Haematologist. The local airport was contacted and an action plan was formed. To ensure that the storage of the products complied with regulations set by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), data loggers were sent via the route to ensure the products would be safe when transported. The GP and district nurse were requested to complete the blood transfusion training required, the local paperwork and policies were sent and the haematologist spoke with the patient to inform them of the risks. A platelet agitator was sent to the island in case storage was required.

Results
The patient received the platelets and latterly red cells in his own home, these were transported safely within MHRA guidelines. The GP and district nurse felt fully supported and confident to give the products. The patient did not have to travel the long journey to receive the care he required.

Conclusion
The scoping exercise undertaken for this patient to receive their care at home was quite lengthy, however very worthwhile. Previously the patient had to travel to the hospital for six years, latterly twice per week. With this project the patient could receive the transfusions in their final weeks, in the comfort of their own home where they died peacefully. If this kind of care was required in the future the team felt that it can be carried out safely however, an individual package of care would be required for each case tailored to the individual patients needs. In the future linking in with the 2020 vision, this kind of care may become more common place.

2020 vision/quality ambitions
Safe, effective and person-centred care which supports people to live as long as possible at home or in a homely setting.

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Safe, effective and person-centred care which supports people to live as long as possible at home or in a homely setting.

Our vision is that by 2020 everyone is able to live longer, healthier lives at home, or in a homely setting.