Blood Matters report for
Blood management (or equivalent) committee
August 2015

Blood Matters Program
Strategic Plan 2014–16

Goal:
To enhance safety and quality use of blood and blood products for improved outcomes for patients in Victorian health services

Objectives:
- Promote and support best practice for patient blood management (PBM), and access to products, including:
  - Strategies directed at clinical governance frameworks and standards that optimise blood product use
  - Consumer engagement
- Analyse adverse events and near misses related to blood and blood product utilisation and share these lessons with an aim to minimise reoccurrence
- Provide and promote expert knowledge sharing and collaboration

Red cell wastage project
The project commenced in August 2014 and aims to assist health and pathology services in reducing avoidable red blood cell wastage and meeting government wastage targets of three – five per cent.

Project facilitator Jackie van Diemen has been working with health/pathology services to help identify factors contributing to waste and to assist in the implementation of waste minimisation strategies.

Red cell wastage figures as of May 2015:

Victoria: four per cent (4)
National: three point seven per cent (3.7)

While many of the services involved to date have shown reduced wastage rates (e.g. 24 per cent to nine per cent and 10 per cent to zero per cent) there is still considerable work to be done.

The following points have been identified as crucial to the continued success of the project:

- Effective inventory management
- Sharing blood fridge compliance data between health services and pathology providers
- Compliance with the BloodNet fridge module for blood fridge data recording
- Movement of red cells between laboratories/health services in a manner timely enough to ensure that the receiving service has enough time to use the units, e.g. moving with 10 days to expiry instead of 5
- Reducing the period of time blood is reserved following a crossmatch
- Compliance with correct transportation methods for red cell units
- Increasing the use of visual prompts in blood fridges e.g. short expiry
- State-wide implementation of electronic crossmatching methods
- Production of and compliance with a Maximum Blood Ordering Schedule (MBOS)
- Ongoing collaboration between health/pathology services

Blood Matters website
The website features links to many other pages of interest, audit tools, education tools, articles and publications of relevance to the blood sector. It is reviewed for currency and accuracy regularly and features up-to-date contact details of the designated Victorian Transfusion Nurses and Transfusion Quality Officers.
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The department of Health and Human Services are in the process of updating and redesigning all www.health.vic.gov.au sites including the Blood Matters page. If you have any suggestions regarding how the Blood Matters page might be improved please contact the Blood Matters team.

Patient Blood Management

The Blood Matters secretariat will continue to facilitate working groups in 2015, with membership from health services across Victoria. The working groups are designed to compile information to assist health services with the implementation of the National Patient Blood Management Guidelines, and meeting NSQHS Standard 7: Blood and Blood products.

A number of parties have expressed interest in participating in the pre-operative anaemia management working group.

Auditing – State-wide audits to determine current areas of practice in patient blood management

2013 audit: The acute transfusion reaction management and knowledge audit has been approved and is available on the Blood Matters website (http://docs2.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/Audit-of-acute-transfusion-reaction-management-and-knowledge-2013). Individual reports have been distributed to participating health services.

2014 audit: The clinical audit of elective red blood cell use in medical, surgical and obstetric adult patients aims to assess the appropriateness of red cell use in practice as compared to the patient blood management guidelines. The report is currently awaiting approval and will be available in the very near future.

2015 audit: The proposed audit for 2015 is pre-operative anaemia management. Work on this project commenced in July 2015.

Serious transfusion incident reporting (STIR) system

STIR aims to derive recommendations for better, safer transfusion practice by monitoring serious errors, sentinel events, adverse events and near misses associated with blood and blood product use. Currently health services representing public and private institutions in 4 states report to STIR.

The 2011-13 report is now available on the Blood Matters website (http://betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhc2/bhcrecnews.nsf/doc/Blood-Matters:-Serious-Transfusion-Incident-Reporting-guide-2015) along with a power point presentation outlining the main themes which can be used by health services for education purposes. Individual reports have been circulated to health services that have reported to STIR.

Work is currently underway on the STIR 2013-14 interim report.

STIR began collecting reports on incidents related to cell salvage and Rh(D) immunoglobulin administration in February 2015 and we have had a number of reports relating to Rh(D) immunoglobulin administration since. Reporting documentation can be found at: (http://www.health.vic.gov.au/bloodmatters/tools/stir.htm).

Graduate Certificate in Transfusion Practice – Melbourne University

There are 12 students undertaking the course this year. The course will be offered in 2016 and Blood Matters will be providing a limited number of partial scholarships to Victorian students.
Network forums for Transfusion Nurse/Trainers
November 20, 2015 – Eastern Health, Box Hill Hospital

Regional workshops
Several workshops have been delivered this year and there are more planned for the second half of 2015. Blood Matters workshops aim to support health services and provide education on blood management practices across Victoria. Speakers include Blood Matters staff, representatives from the Australian Red Cross Blood Service and local health and pathology services:

September 22nd – Kyabram District Health Service, Kyabram
October 15th – Maryvale Private Hospital, Morwell
Please contact Blood Matters if you are interested in hosting a workshop.

Education
Sessions have been scheduled for July 27th, 29th, 31st at Peninsula Health, Frankston and Rosebud
A number of educational presentations are also planned to support private health services.
An Enrolled Nurse (EN) education day is available to health services as required. Please contact Blood Matters to discuss.

Conference presentations
Past:
- Victorian Perioperative Nurses Group (VPNG) Melbourne 21st March 2015 - oral presentation ‘Blood or not in the perioperative suite – that is the question?’
- Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) Perth 14-16 June 2015 - oral presentation – ‘Red blood cells – Are they being used appropriately?’

Upcoming:
- Australian College of Midwives Gold Coast 5-8 October 2015 – two poster presentations – ‘Blood or not in the obstetric setting? When should you transfuse?’ and ‘Collecting blood specimens –can we do it better?’
- The Annual Scientific Meetings of the HAA (Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand, the Australian & New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion and the Australasian Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis) Adelaide, October 18-21 – three abstracts submitted.
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Publications


- Blood Matters - Acute transfusion reaction management and knowledge 2013 audit report
- Serious Transfusion Incident Reporting (STIR) 2011-13 report
- 2014 Clinical audit of elective red blood cell use in medical, surgical and obstetric adult patients

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