Goal:
- To support and enhance best practice in patient blood management (PBM), and the stewardship of blood and blood products, for improved patient outcomes in Victorian health services.

Objectives:
Use innovative and diverse approaches to:
- Promote and support the development of strategies that optimise appropriate blood product use, and person-centred care through National and local governance frameworks and standards
- To analyse data and disseminate findings across the sector to raise awareness, influence practice, promote efficiencies, and provide value
- Provide and promote expert knowledge sharing and collaboration across the sector, including specific initiatives, tools and specialised advice.

Red blood cell wastage reduction project
The project commenced in August 2014, and aims to assist health and pathology services to reduce avoidable red blood cell waste, and to meet government wastage targets of 2.5 – 4 per cent.

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

Red cell wastage figures August 2014 – April 2016:

Blood Matters launched a 'STOP the waste' festive campaign in October 2015 to inform health services that red cell waste typically peaks in January and February, and to explore strategies that may minimise these spikes. The 2015/16 campaign involved the use of a checklist developed by Blood Matters which health services could use to identify planned variations in practice/demand at their site/s over the Christmas/New Year period.
While there was still a peak in red cell waste in January and February 2016, less blood was wasted than in previous years (4.1% and 3.6% respectively). A short survey was distributed to assess the usefulness of the ‘STOP the waste’ festive checklist, and to ascertain if improvements were required.

Suggestions received include:
- launching the campaign earlier to allow earlier implementation
- follow up to ensure that key staff within laboratories received the checklist
- obtaining more reliable information from treating units within the health service.

These suggestions will be taken on board and used to assist health services to reduce the festive peak even further in 2017.

**Patient Blood Management**

The Blood Matters secretariat will continue to facilitate working groups in 2016, 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 the NSQHS Standard 7–Blood and Blood products.

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

**2015 audit:** Preoperative anaemia assessment and management in elective surgical procedures:

This audit was designed to:
- determine what processes are in place within health services to assess anaemia in the preoperative patient.
- explore if patients were presenting for surgery with anaemia.
- provide data to inform areas for improvement.

The report will be released in July. The main finding was the majority of patients are reported as being assessed prior to surgery; however the quality of that assessment varied greatly, with very few assessments in line with PBM module 2 recommendations. Individual summary results for participating health services will be sent out on release of the report.

**Electronic consent auditing tool**

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service (the Blood Service) is developing an electronic audit tool. To test the functionality of the tool the Blood Services Transfusion Policy and Education unit worked in collaboration with Blood Matters to pilot test the previous (2012) Blood Matters audit of consent. When formally released the audit tool will allow health services to enter data regarding consent for blood transfusion related to their own organisation and benchmark instantaneously against similar health services, VIC/TAS/NT/ACT (Blood Matters) health services, or all Australian health services submitting data. Blood Matters would like to thanks those health services that have helped to pilot the tool so far. We will circulate the go-live date for the tool when it becomes available to us.

**Blood Matters proposed audit topics for 2016 include:**
- Reducing iatrogenic anaemia related to blood sampling
- Clinical audit of the use of albumin
- Clinical use of Rh(D) immunoglobulin in obstetrics

**Serious transfusion incident reporting (STIR) system**

By monitoring serious transfusion errors, sentinel and adverse events, including near misses associated with blood and blood product use, STIR is able to make recommendations for safer transfusion practice. These recommendations are disseminated to health services for their information and attention.
Reporting to STIR allows health services to meet Standard 7 requirements and contribute current transfusion incidents and risks to state and national haemovigilance data. Currently health services representing public and private institutions in 4 states/territories report to STIR.

STIR annual reports and further information about how, and what should be reported can be found on the Blood Matters website at: https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/patient-care/speciality-diagnostics-therapeutics/blood-matters/serious-transfusion-incidents

The 2014-15 report is currently being prepared and will be available in the coming months. Individual health service reports will be circulated with the annual report.

**Graduate certificate in transfusion practice – The University of Melbourne/Blood Matters**

There are 13 students undertaking the course this year. Blood Matters have been able to provide 6 partial scholarships to eligible Victorian students.

The course is currently under review, and in 2017 will be divided into 2 separate qualifications: a Specialist Certificate in Blood Management Foundations (1 semester, 1 subject, 25 credit points) which builds into the Graduate Certificate in Transfusion Practice (total of 2 semesters, 3 subjects, and 50 credit points).

The Specialist Certificate in Blood Management Foundations is designed to provide a foundation for health care professionals who work in areas where blood or blood products are transfused, or for those staff members responsible for managing organisational compliance with National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standard 7 and associated activities.

**Blood Matters forums 2016**

The February Blood Matters forum for Transfusion Nurse/Trainer/Safety Officers was held at the Australian Red Cross Blood Service in West Melbourne on Monday 29 February. The program focused on patient blood management with particular emphasis on anaemia. Preliminary results from the Blood Matters audit ‘preoperative anaemia assessment and management in elective surgical procedures’ were discussed, along with a number of activities being undertaken by health services in this area. The second forum will be held on Friday 7 October at Barwon Health in Geelong. Blood Matters will circulate further information closer to the date.

**Regional workshops**

In 2016, to date, 4 regional workshops have been delivered at: Shepparton, Warragul, Horsham and Geelong with a further workshop scheduled for October 2016 in Echuca. These workshops aim to support health services, and provide education on blood management practices across Victoria. Speakers include Blood Matters staff, representatives from the Blood Service local donor centres if available, and local health and pathology services. Please contact Blood Matters if you are interested in hosting a workshop.

**Education**

To date, Blood Matters have delivered 8 educational presentations/workshops to staff at private health services with further sessions scheduled over the rest of the year.

Following on from the successful Enrolled nurse (EN) education days held in 2014 and 2015, 2 EN education days were delivered at the Blood Service Melbourne Processing Centre in April and May 2016. The study days were well subscribed with 23 ENs attending the April session, and 13 attending the May session. The majority of attendees were ENs working in private health services. Both days received very positive feedback, with all participants agreeing that their transfusion knowledge had improved, and that they would recommend the session to colleagues.
Conference presentations

2016:

- 17th International Haemovigilance Seminar, Paris, France, 9-11 March, 2016
  - ‘Blood Specimen collection in the obstetric setting: mum and bub are not the same’ poster presentation

- 2016 Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association, Melbourne Australia, 5-7 May 2016
  - ‘Riding the ferrous wheel: identification and treatment of iron deficiency anaemia’ poster presentation. Awarded 2nd prize

- 34th International Congress of the ISBT, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 3-8 September 2016
  - ‘Riding the ferrous wheel: Quality preoperative anaemia assessment and management’ Oral presentation
  - ‘To ‘D’ or not to ‘D’: RhD incident reporting’ Poster presentation
  - ‘Reducing the festive excess: strategies to reduce red cell waste in Victoria, Australia’ Poster presentation
  - ‘Different strategies used to implement preoperative anaemia assessment in Australia’ invited speaker oral presentation by Linley Bielby

- The Annual Scientific Meetings of the HAA 2016

Blood Matters have submitted the following abstracts for consideration:

- ‘Delayed haemolytic transfusion reactions - time for a National registry’
- ‘Identification and management of anaemia in the preoperative patient - a rollercoaster or ferrous wheel?’
- ‘Festive excess: A strategy to reduce the red cell wastage in Victoria’

News

The International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) has formed a Transfusion Practitioner (TP) Forum as a subcommittee of the ISBT Clinical Working Party. ISBT see the TP role as a very important one, and as such have established the TP Forum Steering Committee for which Linley Bielby has been appointed Chair. The steering committee has been busy planning the first dedicated series of TP sessions to be held at the 2016 ISBT congress in Dubai (September 4-8, 2016). The dedicated TP sessions cover patient safety, best use of data to change practice, and managing blood use appropriately. The steering committee is also hosting a networking afternoon tea to promote interaction and information sharing. Further information can be found here: http://www.isbtweb.org/dubai/scientific-programme/

Publications


- Serious transfusion incident reporting (STIR) 2013-14 report
- Serious transfusion incident reporting (STIR) summary 2013-14. A PowerPoint presentation to assist health services present data.
- 2014 Clinical audit of elective red blood cell use in medical, surgical and obstetric adult patients
- Clinical audit of preoperative anaemia assessment and management in elective surgical procedures 2015
ISBT Science series Volume 11, Issue Supplement S1, pages 118/125, January 2016. The role of the transfusion safety coordinator in Australia. Authors: Linley Bielby, Christine Akers, Sally Francis, Sue Darby, Linda Campbell, Leanne Hollis, Bev Quested, Chris Hogan.

Blood Matters staff

Program Manager: Linley Bielby email: lbielby@redcrossblood.org.au / phone 03 9694 0102

Transfusion Nurse: Christine Akers email: cakers@redcrossblood.org.au / phone 03 9694 3523

PBM Education Coordinator: Adrienne Harper email: aharper@redcrossblood.org.au / phone 03 9694 3515

Data and Information Managers: Peter Beard / Bridget Glazebrook email: pbeard@redcrossblood.org.au, email: bglazebrook@redcrossblood.org.au / phone 03 9694 0261

Red Blood Cell Wastage Reduction Project Facilitator: Jacqueline (Jackie) van Diemen email: jvandiemen@redcrossblood.org.au / phone 03 9694 53524

Address: 100 -154 Batman Street, West Melbourne, Vic 3003. Fax: 03 9694 0145

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone 03 9694 0102 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au