

Blood Matters on the Bench and Beyond

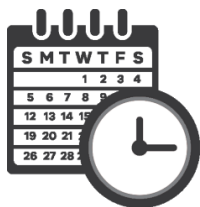
Issue 8 – October 2021

OFFICIAL

Welcome to the Blood Matters newsletter for Scientists. It will be distributed throughout the year to share information that may be helpful to you, and to let you know of upcoming activities which may be of interest.

Upcoming Blood Matters online events

Fibrinogen concentrate in major obstetric bleeding



Tuesday 23 November 2021

11.00am – 12.00pm

Virtual education session via Webex

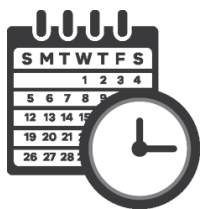
Presentation by:

Susan McGregor, Blood Management Clinical Nurse Consultant, Western Health, Victoria.

- RiaSTAP use at Western Health
- ROTEM FIBTEM guiding use and dosage of Fibrinogen Concentrate

Registration is required – [Click here to register](#)

Case-study of a massive fetomaternal haemorrhage



Wednesday 1 December 2021

TBA

Virtual education session via Webex

Presentation by:

Catherine Cockshott, Laboratory Manager – Sunshine Hospital, Dorevitch Pathology, Victoria.

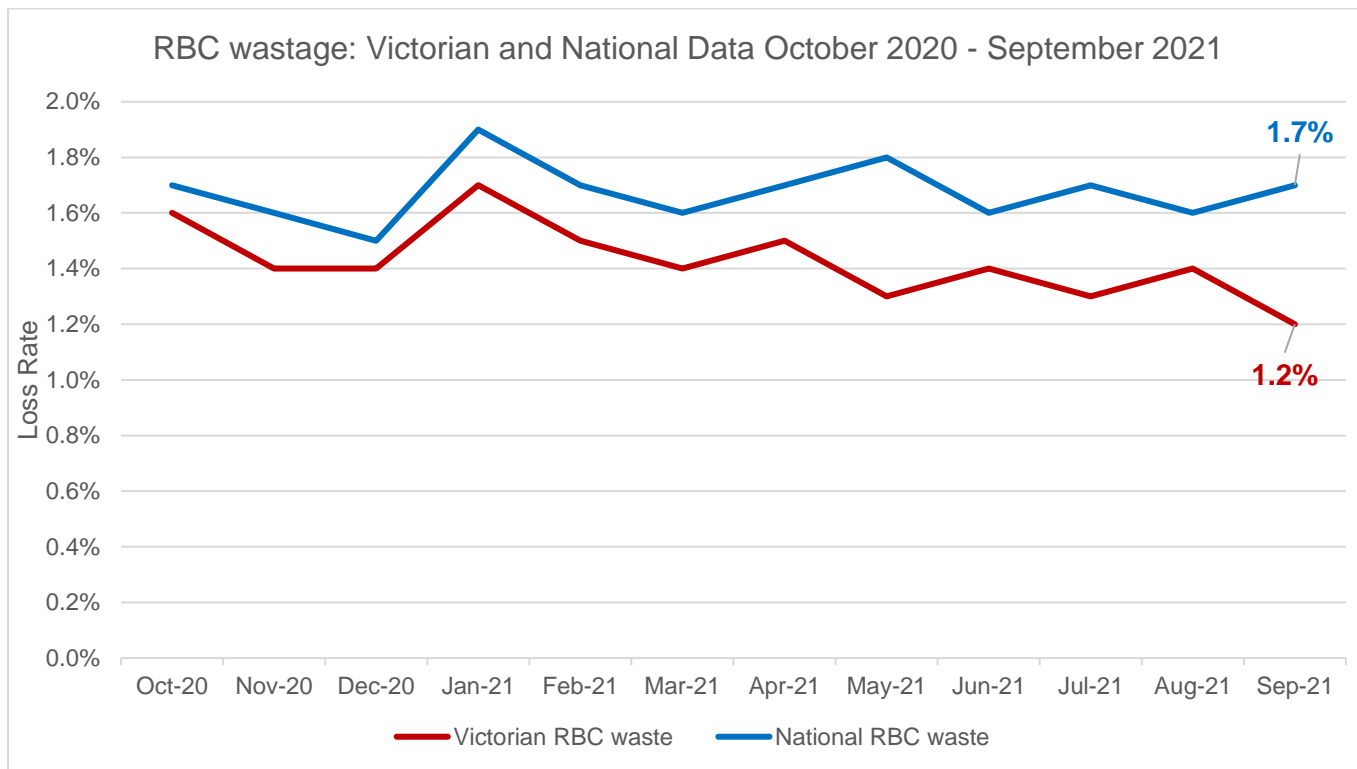
- Case study involving a massive fetomaternal haemorrhage

Further information to be provided shortly, [contact Rae](#) if you would like to be added to the distribution list.

Red blood cell wastage at an all-time low!

Thanks to each and every one of you, Victoria recorded our lowest ever red blood cell wastage rate at 1.2% in September, well below the national average of 1.7%.

This is an outstanding result, and a tribute to your dedication and commitment to blood stewardship.



ANZSBT Guidelines for the Laboratory Estimation of Fetomaternal Haemorrhage, 2nd Edition September 2021

The updated [ANZSBT Guidelines for the Laboratory Estimation of Fetomaternal Haemorrhage](#) have been published.

The revision was prompted by Australia's National Blood Authority (NBA) release of the [Prophylactic use of RhD Immunoglobulin in Pregnancy Care guidelines](#) which replace the NBA Guidelines on the Prophylactic Use of RhD Immunoglobulin (Anti-D) in Obstetrics.

This edition focuses on laboratory testing and reporting of results for fetomaternal haemorrhage (FMH).

Blood fridge compliance

A reminder that ISO/IEC 17025:2017 now requires calibration and maintenance of controlled blood storage to be undertaken by NATA accredited service providers.

The [ANZSBT Guidelines for Transfusion and Immunohaematology Laboratory Practice](#) stipulates that the organisation that owns or manages equipment or facilities used to store or transport blood products is responsible for ensuring compliance with AS3864.2-2012 and all other regulatory requirements.

If a transfusion laboratory is supplying blood components to a blood fridge which is not managed or validated by them, staff must be satisfied that the storage arrangements are safe, appropriate, and comply with all regulatory requirements.

If you are not sure certain of the compliance status of a blood fridge at a site where you are sending blood then the blood must be packaged in such a way that the cold-chain can be maintained from your laboratory to transfusion.

Blood Matters undertakes a regular blood fridge review, to ensure we have an accurate record of all blood fridges within Victoria. This review asks sites responsible for the maintenance of blood fridges if the blood fridges are compliant with AS3864.2-2012. It is the responsibility of the laboratory supplying blood components/products to remote blood fridges to ensure compliance with the Standards.

COVID-19 infection control

With an increase in COVID-19 positive patients within Victorian Health Services, it is more important than ever to ensure measures are in place to reduce the risk of wasting blood components or products due to internal infection control measures.

The most important factor in reducing the risk of wastage is to ensure blood components and products are **issued from the transfusion laboratory only when they are ready for transfusion.**

Blood Matters COVID 19 Newsletters include many hints and ideas to assist health services around transfusion issues. They can be found at: [COVID-19 – Blood Matters newsletters - health.vic](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/blood-matters/newsletters)

Let's celebrate the donor's precious gift this festive season

The festive season is fast approaching and Blood Matters will be launching the 2021-22 festive campaign in the coming weeks. It will include checklists and an infographic to prompt transfusion laboratories and health services to look at how their blood use may be impacted.

We understand that at the moment, there is uncertainty what services will look like this festive season, however once there is a clearer path out of restrictions and its impact on services, these tools may be able to assist how this will impact blood use at your health service.

Please take the time to inform Lifeblood of any anticipated changes to your blood inventory and usage, to assist them to adjust donor collections accordingly. This will help to ensure sufficiency of the blood supply over the festive season.

Blood Matters online education

We are very pleased to be continuing our online education into 2022. As dates are confirmed we will send out information to you for registration for attendance.

Thank you for your outstanding contribution!

The ongoing dedication and resilience you show is inspiring. You are celebrated and very appreciated, thank you with absolute sincerity.

Take the time to look after yourselves and each other, you make us all proud.



National certification of the medical scientist profession

The Australian Council for **C**ertification of the **M**edical **L**aboratory **S**cientific Workforce has simplified its acronym to CMLS. Join now at www.cmls.org.au.

Why become certified?

- Demand recognition of our professional standing as part of Australia's health service workforce.
- Certification will be the best benchmark available to assure competent professional practice.
- With a certified workforce there will be more obligation on the employer to ensure staff have professional development opportunities afforded to them.

- As a nationally certified medical scientist you can demonstrate your ongoing commitment to professional development and self-improvement and be recognised as passionate, progressive and pro-active.

[Click here to view a short video about the certification scheme](#)

A Blood Matters education session was held in May 2021 which included information about the certification scheme. [Click here for to view meeting recording](#) (the certification presentation begins at time point 20:38).

Blood Matters is committed to providing support and education to assist in the early stages of this scheme.

How can Blood Matters help you?

The Blood Matters team are here to assist health services and laboratories through education and providing resources.

If you have suggestions for tools and resources that could assist in day to day activities and towards achieving accreditation please let Rae French or any of the Blood Matters team know by email to at

rfrench@redcrossblood.org.au or bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au or phone 03 9694 3524.

To receive this document in another format, phone **03 9694 0102**, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or [email Blood Matters](mailto:bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au) <bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au>.

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

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ISSN 2652-7278 – Online (pdf / word)

Available at [Blood Matters](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/patient-care/speciality-diagnostics-therapeutics/blood-matters/transfusion-science-blood-stewardship) <<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/patient-care/speciality-diagnostics-therapeutics/blood-matters/transfusion-science-blood-stewardship>>