

Blood Matters on the Bench and Beyond

Issue 15 – August 2023

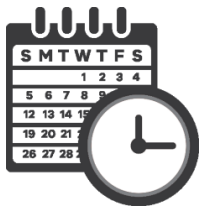
OFFICIAL

Welcome to the Blood Matters newsletter for Scientists. It is 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.

Blood Matters online events 2023

Blood Matters online events have become a regular fixture in our education calendar, continuing to support scientists and our multidisciplinary network of transfusion professionals.

Save the date for a face-to-face meeting!



Blood management summit for scientists

Wednesday 18 October 2023

10.00 – 3.30pm (AEST, time to be confirmed)

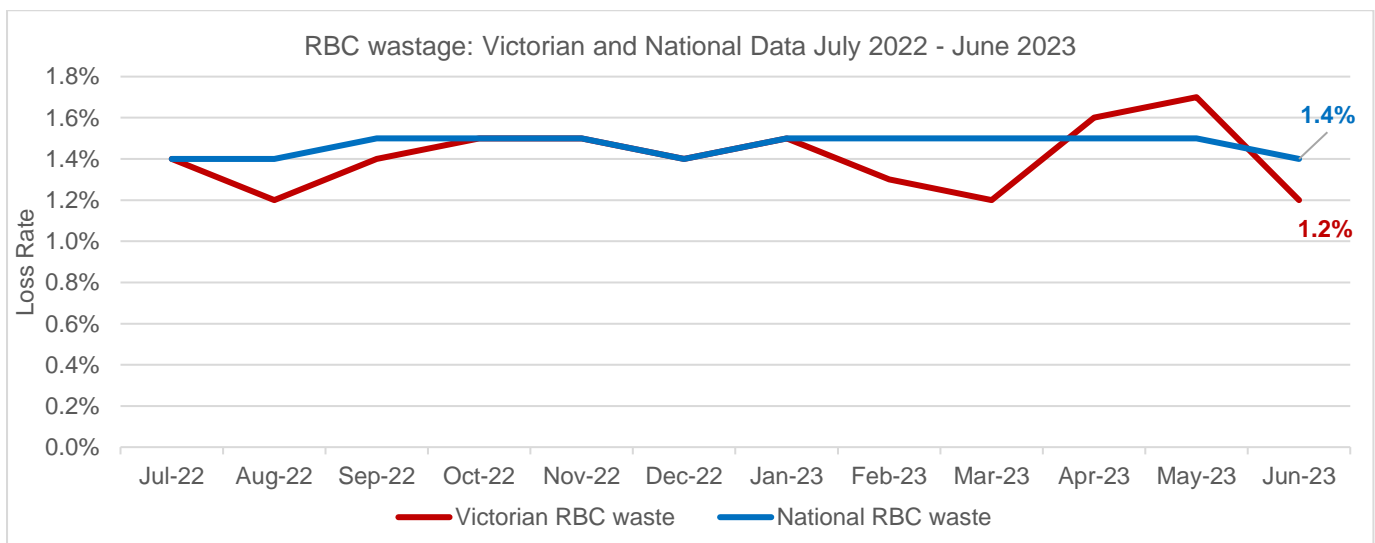
Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Melbourne Processing Centre, West Melbourne

Further information including registration and program details will follow. Limited spots will be available.

The program will include a variety of updates and interesting topics of particular interest to scientists, including opportunity for networking and discussion with peers.

RBC wastage

April and May saw an increase in RBC wastage across Victoria. The main driver seemed to be an increase in discards due to non-compliant storage conditions. An important reminder that blood should not be collected from controlled storage until the patient is ready for transfusion to commence. RBC wastage rates were back down again in June.



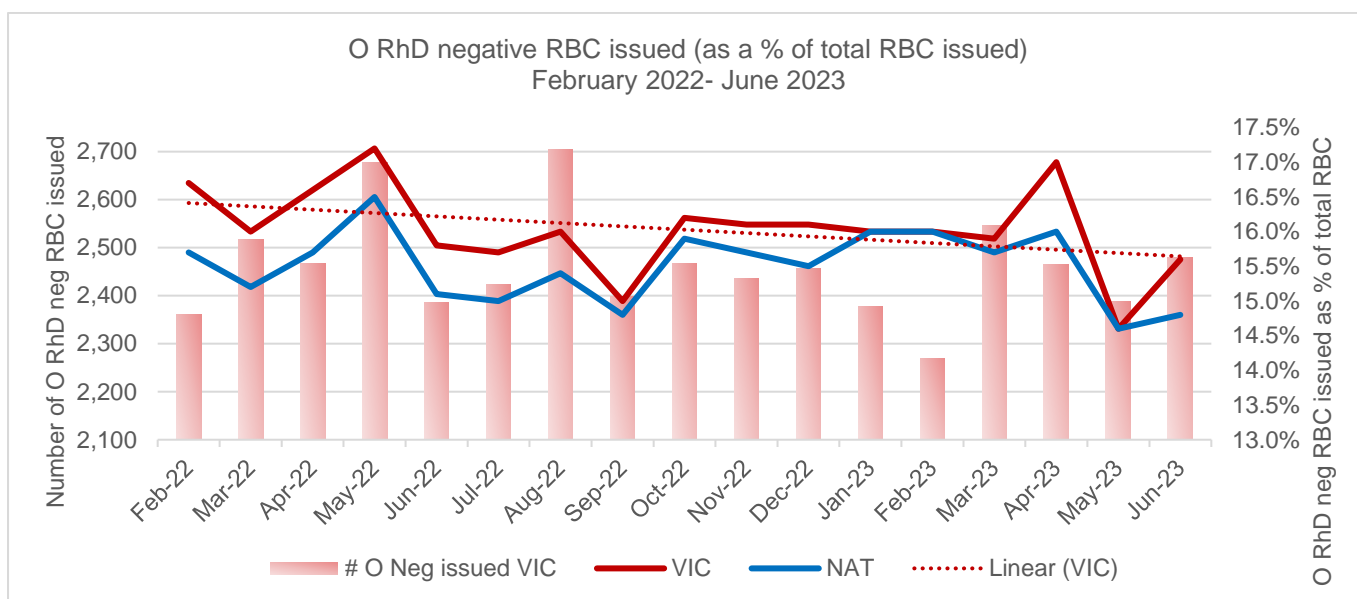
RBC usage

The number of RBC issued in Victoria in the financial year 2022/23 has increased by 4.9% on the previous financial year, equating to almost 10,000 extra RBC sent to health services in the past year. This has been the third consecutive year of increasing RBC issue rates across Victoria and nationally.

To assist with inventory management and sufficiency of supply, any insights into the drivers of these increases at your health service or future predicted increases would be greatly appreciated. Please email rfrench@redcrossblood.org.au

Emergency use blood components

Many sites have either implemented or are planning to implement emergency use group O RhD positive RBC for females >50 and males >18 years over the coming months. While the Victorian O RhD negative RBC issue rate remains above national average, there has been a subsequent decrease in the number of O RhD negative RBC issued as a percentage of total RBC issued.



This has been of benefit with the recent inventory restrictions experienced. We encourage ongoing discussions and reporting of blood use at Blood Management Committee (or equivalent) meetings.

Group AB plasma products (FFP and cryoprecipitate) are also experiencing ongoing restrictions. Discussion around use of group A low titre anti-A/B FFP and group A cryoprecipitate to patients of unknown blood group at your Blood Management Committee (or equivalent) meetings would also be valuable.

Provision of emergency use RBC to Ambulance Victoria (regional and rural)

Ambulance Victoria have standardised the procedure whereby blood components are requested from **regional and rural health services**. Ad-hoc requests have been replaced by Ambulance Victoria paramedics requesting all blood components through Adult Retrieval Victoria (ARV).

The ARV Clinical Coordinator (ARV CC, a consultant physician) will contact the most suitable health service or transfusion laboratory to arrange for blood component pickup at an agreed time and location.

The procedure details appropriate cold chain management, actions for unused blood components, traceability and audit processes.

No changes have been made regarding the use or administration of blood components by paramedics. There is no anticipated change in frequency of blood component transfusion because of this formalised procedure.

The location of emergency use group O red blood cells (RBC) across Victoria will be accessed by the ARV CC through secure information-sharing with the existing Blood Matters' database. Please ensure Blood Matters is kept informed of any changes to your emergency group O RBC inventory holdings, including at satellite locations.

Upcoming conferences



Blood 2023

5-8 November 2023, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

Transfusion Practitioner Study Day - 4 November 2023

This event is the combined Annual Scientific Meeting of:

- Australia and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion (ANZSBT).
- Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand (HSANZ).
- Thrombosis and Haemostasis Society of Australia and New Zealand (THANZ).

Abstract submission is closed, and early bird registration closes 10 August 2023.

For more information visit the [Blood 2023](#) website.



National certification of the medical scientist profession

The Australian Council for Certification of the Medical Laboratory Scientific Workforce has simplified its acronym to CMLS. Join now at www.cmls.org.au.

Some changes to CMLS certification came into effect on 1st April 2023. Rather than the CMLS Board directly processing applications for certification or renewal, professional bodies operating CMLS approved CPD schemes will be able to issue certification on behalf of the Council for their members meeting the criteria.

The Council member organisations remain committed to the certification of the medical laboratory workforce and to the standards which they have established. This change has been made to simplify the process and increase the participation in certification at minimal cost to the individual.

Why become certified?

- 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 certification of the medical scientific workforce.

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

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](tel:0396940102), 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.

© State of Victoria, Australia, Department of Health, May 2023.

ISSN 2652-7278 – Online (pdf / word)

Available at [Blood Matters](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/transfusion-science-and-blood-stewardship) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/transfusion-science-and-blood-stewardship>>