

Blood Matters on the Bench and Beyond

Issue 7 – July 2021

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.



Blood Matters Scientist Summit
Wednesday 4th August 2021, 10.30am – 12.00pm
Virtual meeting via Webex
Registration is required – [Click here to register](#)

Group O Emergency Issue RBC – O POS or O NEG? O BOY!

Risks and benefits of O RhD positive emergency issue RBC <ul style="list-style-type: none">Considerations when issuing O RhD positive RBC to a patient with an unknown blood group	Dr James Daly Medical Director Pathology Services Clinical Services and Research Australian Red Cross Lifeblood
Emergency O Red Cell transfusions, Pathology Queensland <ul style="list-style-type: none">Implementation of O RhD positive emergency issue RBC in Queensland	Sue Williams Supervising Scientist Transfusion Central Laboratory Pathology Queensland

Including time for questions and discussion at the end of the meeting.

This education session is aimed at transfusion scientists of all levels, but would be of interest to all clinical staff.



Blood Matters Blood Management - Five in 5 education series
9th – 13th August 2021, 10.30am – 11.30am
Virtual education series via Webex
Registration is required – **See email attachment for registration links**

Five blood management topics in 5 days (1 hour per day)

Monday 9 th August	Patient blood management, iron deficiency anaemia and iron infusions
Tuesday 10 th August	Safe transfusion practice
Wednesday 11 th August	Massive transfusion
Thursday 12 th August	Blood grouping and compatibility testing
Friday 13 th August	Adverse events

Each topic (day) requires individual registration. Staff can register for as many sessions as they would like to attend.

These sessions would be of interest to all clinical staff, although they are primarily aimed at nursing staff.

Please note the “Blood grouping, compatibility testing and safe sample collection” presentation requires no prior knowledge of blood banking. If you work in a transfusion laboratory, your current knowledge will likely exceed the information covered in this session.

2021 Blood Matters Audit – Electronic medical record (EMR)

In 2021, the Blood Matters audit will survey the implementation of an electronic medical record (EMR). We are seeking information on blood related processes of the EMR and will be requesting input from several areas of the health service.

We recognise that not all health services have an EMR, and there will be questions relevant to all health services.

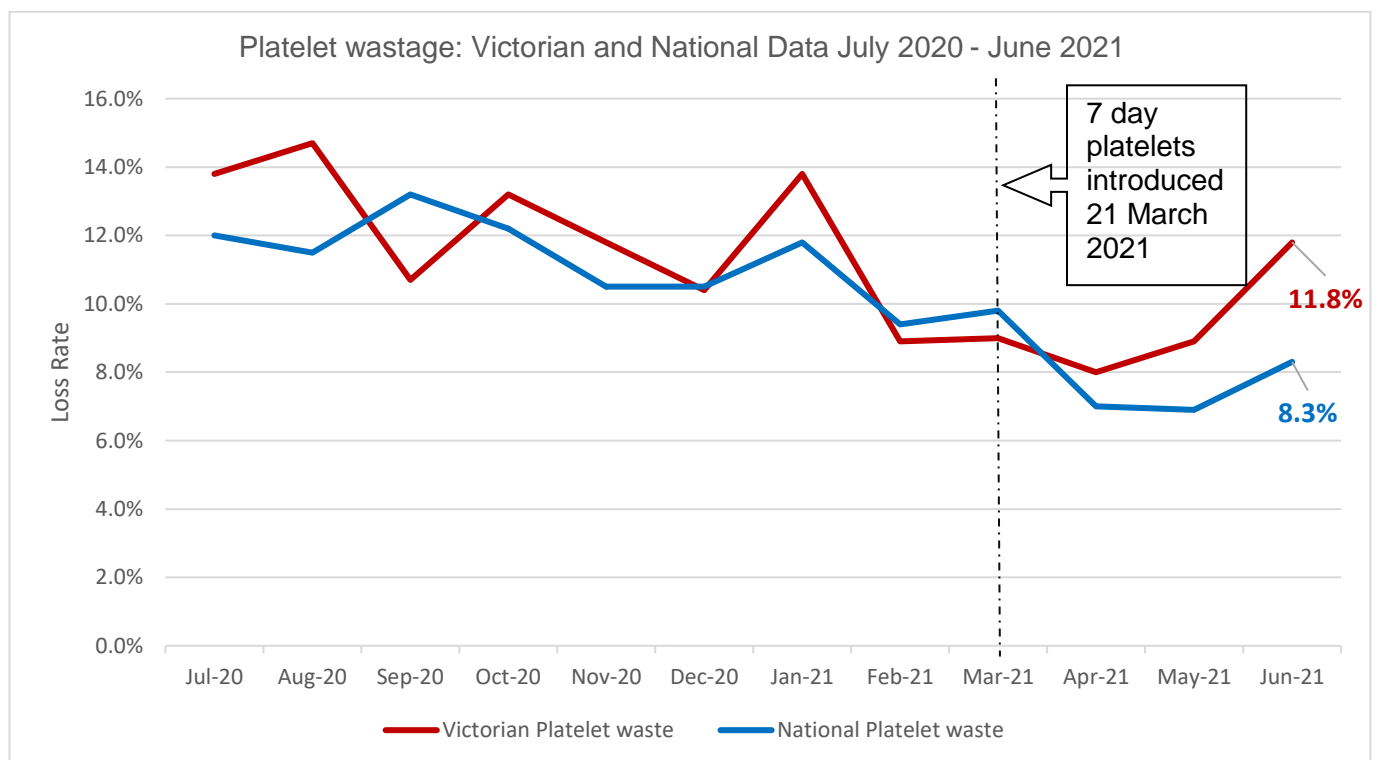
The audit will be open **2 August – 24 September 2021**.

We encourage participation in the audit by all cohorts involved in transfusion. Please ensure your laboratory has access to be able to participate. Survey information and links will be emailed to Chief Executive Officers with a copy to Transfusion Nurses/Trainers/Safety Officers later in July.

7-day platelets – they’re here!

While we had initially seen a decrease in platelet wastage with the introduction of platelets with 7-day shelf life, we all still need to be mindful of best inventory practices to keep platelet wastage to a minimum.

Victorian platelet wastage is routinely above national average. With a collaborative approach, we can achieve a reduction in platelet wastage across the state.



- ◆ Review current inventory levels, ensure inventory is appropriate for your site
- ◆ Prioritise the use of platelets that are near to expiry
- ◆ Use visual prompts for short expiry products
- ◆ Be proactive by asking if platelets that have been allocated but not collected are still required for that patient

- ◆ Educate clinicians regarding inventory of platelets and difficulty in managing short expiry products
- ◆ Could a “transfer network” be established to use expiring platelets? Is there another lab close by you that you could upon for available stock before placing an order from Lifeblood?

Non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT) for fetal RHD genotype

On 28 May the National Blood Authority announced the release of the *Guideline for the prophylactic use of Rh D immunoglobulin in pregnancy care 2021* (the Guideline).

The Guideline can be downloaded from the NBA website at www.blood.gov.au/anti-d-0.

A summary of the clinical guidance, adaptable care pathways and the accompanying technical report describing the evidence review process are also available on the NBA website.

The Guideline introduces new clinical guidance on the use of non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT) to determine fetal *RHD* status. This guidance is based on scientific evidence and consensus among clinical experts and is not a policy statement on funding and supply arrangements for the national provision of NIPT.

It is important to note that Lifeblood has not been approved to provide NIPT for RHD for the purpose of targeted antenatal RhD immunoprophylaxis.

The attachment outlines clinicians should continue to provide universal antenatal RhD-Ig immunoprophylaxis using the [Care pathway for the prophylactic use of RhD immunoglobulin in pregnancy \(excluding non-invasive prenatal testing\)](#)

Please see the attachment on the accompanying email for more details.

Blood Matters education in 2021

We are working behind the scenes to provide more online education events for you throughout the year, and will circulate information as these events are finalised.

Not only has the virtual format enhanced accessibility for many people, especially in regional centres, but it has also fostered multidisciplinary attendance.

Australian Institute of Medical and Clinical Scientists (AIMS) National Scientific Meeting

30 August – 1 September 2021

The AIMS National Scientific Meeting will be held as a fully online virtual meeting. Attendees will be able to participate in interactive and engaging experiences through a dynamic virtual conference program.

For more details and to register, see the [AIMS NSM 2021 webpage](#).

Blood 2021

20 – 23 September 2021

Blood 2021 is the combined Annual Scientific Meeting of the HSAZ, ANZSBT and THANZ.

The educational content will be delivered virtually for Blood 2021, but an Adelaide hub is being offered for those who are able to attend in person for networking and socialising opportunities.

For more details, and to join the mailing list see the [Blood 2021](#) website.

National Immunohaematology Continuing Education (NICE) 2021

15 – 17 October 2021

NICE 2021 is planned to go ahead this year as a face to face meeting at Novotel Brighton, Sydney.

Registrations are open, it is recommended to register early as there are a reduced number of places available.

Any enquiries to reg.nice2021@gmail.com.

National certification of the medical scientist profession



A national professional certification scheme for the medical laboratory science profession in Australia has come into effect.

The Australian Council for Certification of the Medical Laboratory Scientific Workforce (ACCMLSW) is a newly created not for profit company established to administer the voluntary certification scheme.

Join now at www.accmlsw.org.au. You will need to upload:

- A certificate of primary qualification
- Continuing professional development (CPD) certificate or an outline of CPD activities undertaken in the previous 2 years
- Declaration of competency assessment and experience (downloadable from the website) signed by your employer.

Why become certified?

- This can be seen as a first step towards ensuring only high calibre practitioners are employed in our laboratories, demanding 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](#)

This scheme needs to be supported for it to succeed. It is the closest the industry has got to greater recognition and professionalism with unification of the different professional associations.

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.

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