

# **Iron Optimisation - RCHT**

## **The Story So Far**

Mr John Faulds

Blood Conservation Coordinator

RCHT

# Outcome for Today

To show a program of  
Surgical Blood Conservation  
(in particular optimisation),  
with the aim of reducing blood Tx in the elective  
surgical setting.

# Key benefits of Introducing a Blood Conservation service

- Reduced risk for patients and improved patient care
- Reduced demand on blood banks and associated costs
- Reduction in last minute cancelled operations
- Reduced risk of peri-operative complications leading to reduce length of stay.

# Challenges for Blood Conservation

- Implementing a new service/idea (cultural change)
- Proving financial viability
- Data collecting

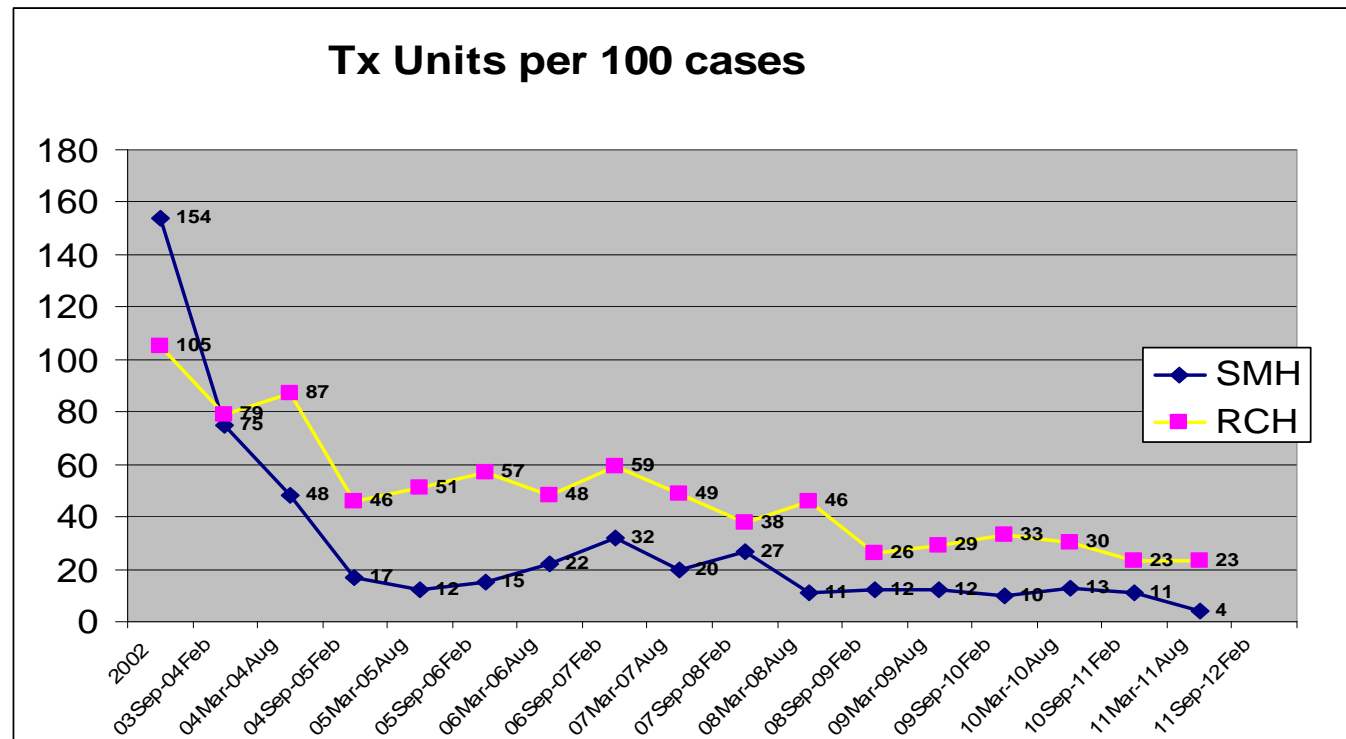
# Our Service

- Staffing – 2 WT + 0.5 PT (nursing)
  - 0.1 A &C
  - Consultant - 1 pa
- Optimisation – Pre surgery (X3 half day clinics)
- Intra Operative Cell Salvage
- Quality assurance
- Point of care testing
- Research

# RCHT Time Line

- Pre 2002 = No Program
- Sep 04 – Aug 05 = ICS Program
- Mar 06 – Feb 07 = Change in ICS criteria which showed an increase in Tx
- Mar 07 – Feb 08 ICS program re instated
- Feb 08 – To date = Optimisation program and ICS program

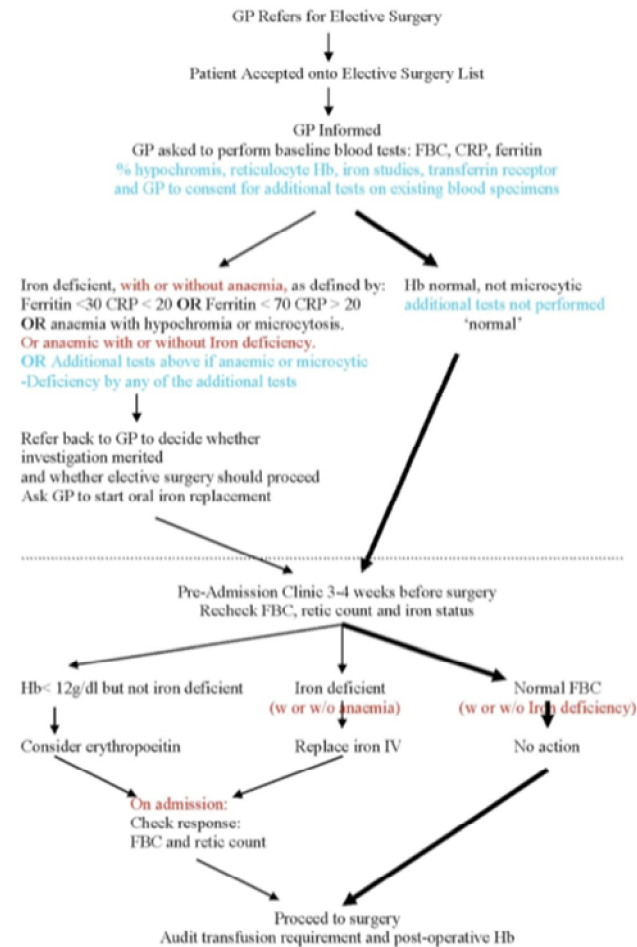
# Tx Time Line Graph (Hip surgery)



# Referral Algorithm

Pre-operative Assessment and Haemoglobin Optimisation for Elective Surgery  
Early Identification and Management of Iron Deficiency  
and Erythropoietin Use to Improve Haemoglobin in Non-Iron Deficient Anaemic Patients

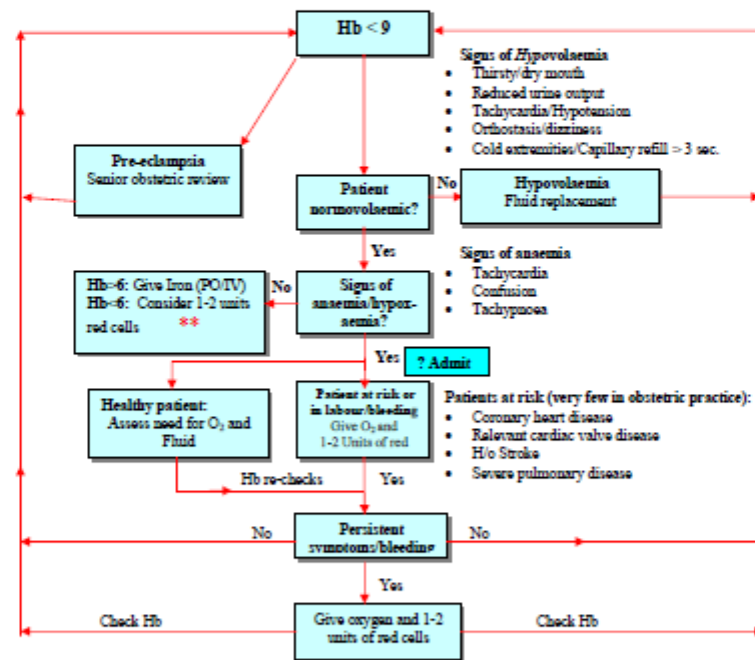
## Patient Care Pathway





# Guidelines for blood transfusions in pregnancy.

- Ante-part and post partum management of fluid and blood status includes careful consideration of the need for red cells and other fluid replacement
- Asymptomatic patients with normo-volaemic anaemia do not need blood transfusion if the haemoglobin level is above 6 g/100ml
- All Hb levels referred to below are in gram per 100 mls



Note: High risk patients need special thresholds for red cell transfusion

## Not an indication for transfusion:

- Anaemia with patient feeling well
- Prophylactic substitution
- Top up of HB in asymptomatic anaemia
- Hypovolaemia

\*\* If in labour- IV access, FBC X match 2 units, active management 3<sup>rd</sup> stage with synto infusion. Suture promptly.

NOTE 1. Asymptomatic women with Hb > 6 g/dl do not require blood.

2. Informed consent must be taken prior to a blood transfusion.

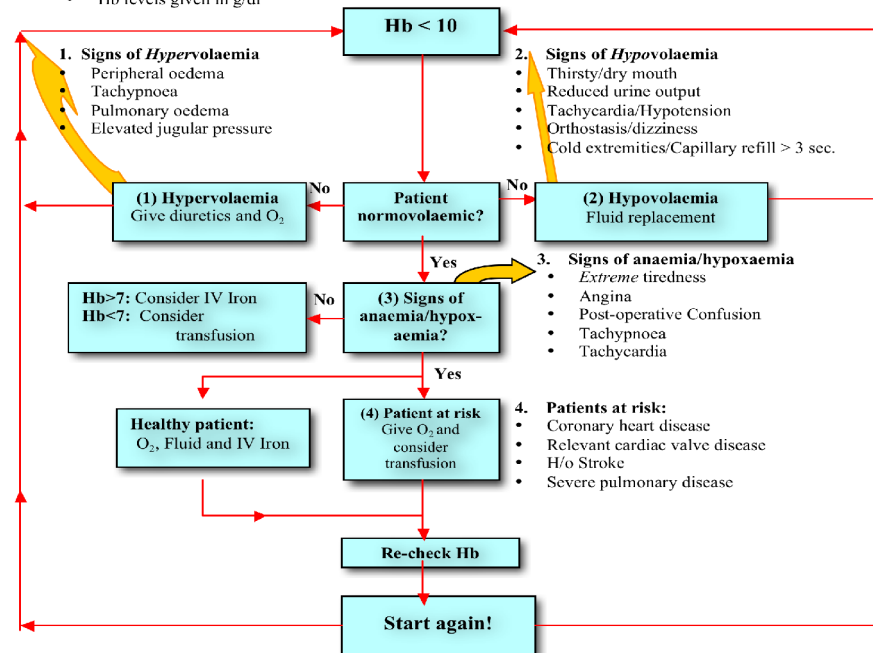
Refs: 1. HTC 2007.

2. Blood transfusion and the

### Guidelines for peri-operative blood transfusions in adults.

(not suitable for acute massive haemorrhage)

- RCHT Blood transfusion policy states: "Transfusion should only be given when there is no alternative"
- Peri-operative management of fluid and blood status includes careful consideration of the need for red cells and fluid replacement
- The patient's **volume status** needs careful assessment.
- **Asymptomatic normal risk patients** with normo-volaemic anaemia **do not need blood transfusion** if the haemoglobin level is above 7 g/dl.
- **Don't give more blood than necessary to achieve the Hb-level you are aiming for.**
  - Calculate one g/dl Hb per unit of blood. **Single unit transfusion is perfectly acceptable.**
- **IV Iron** Sucrose, Venofer, 200 mg can increase Hb 1g/dl within a few days of an acute bleed. Max 200 mg/day, max 600 mg/week.
- Hb levels given in g/dl



**Note: High risk patients need special thresholds for red cell transfusion**

#### Not an indication for transfusion:

- Anaemia with patient **feeling well**.
- Prophylactic substitution
- Top up of Hb in **asymptomatic** anaemia
- Hypovolaemia, i.e. use as plasma expander.

#### REMEMBER

A blood transfusion will ban the recipient from donating blood!

#### Management of Hypovolaemia:

- Oxygen 2-4 l/min
- Fluid replacement/challenge with crystalloid (Hartmann's®), starch (Voluven®) or gelatine (Gelofucine®),

Lars Jakt/HTT August 2004.  
Version 4  
Revised Lars Jakt May 2010  
To be revised May 2013

# Patient pathway

- Patients flagged up by Pre assessment Staff
- Blood results normally checked within two days
- Blood Conservation contacted via
  - Email
  - Telephone
  - In person
  - Netpage

# Surgical Specialities

- Orthopaedics
- GI
- Urology
- Gynaecology
- Others

What operations

Those at risk to transfusion?

# Pre op iron choice

- Ferinject now the iron of choice pre surgery  
400mg    600 mg    1000mg  
+/-  
Darbepoetin 300 mcg
- Patient only has to attend once
- Follow up bloods – normally two weeks following iron
- Intervention outcome - HRG 4
  - **Patient discharged**

# Delivery of Iron

- All Iron interventions are undertaken in the pre op assessment clinic
- Out patient setting
- Dedicated member of staff
- Iron given as slow IV infusion via Baxter pump
- One to one nursing
- Letter to GP

# Follow up

- Bloods normally at two weeks
- Arranged to be taken at GP's
- May be taken on admission (day of surgery)
- Require – FBC

Reticulocyte's

Ferritin (sometimes)

CRP

What is a successful intervention?

# Peri op Iron

- Iron Sucrose (Venofer) - iron of choice
- Iron given during surgery or post operatively
- Undertaken by anaesthetists or recovery nurses
- Given as a slow IV bolus or via infusion pump
- Administered to patients who have normal Hb low ferritin.



# Post Operative Iron

- Patients flagged up at Pre assessment or ward referrals
- Venofer iron of choice
- Normally administered in the ward setting
- Follow up results in two weeks
- Letters to GP



# Outcomes to date

- 185 patients treated pre operatively
- No Major ADR's (to date)
- Mild reactions – Flushing, Headache, Rash
- Ferinject has been approved for the continued use in pre op setting

# Optimisation Costs + Income

- HRG 4
- Coded – QZ14B (Tariff of £235 2012/13)
- Predicted yearly costs - £25,500 approx (600 mg)
- Predicted yearly income - £44,000 approx
- Income generation - £18,000 approx

Predicted on 185 interventions

# Blood Conservation Budgets

- Total Budget for 2010 – 2011  
£191,000
- Total Budget for 2011 – 2012  
£216,000
- Budget for 2012 – 2013  
Approx £290,000 (.35% approx)

# Blood Conservation The Future

- To integrate Blood Conservation into the wider trust objectives
- Consider moving from Blood Conservation to Patient Blood Management
- Increase in staff to support the service
- Further ethical research
- Obstetric population
- Improve our data collection
  - Medical patients?

# Thank You and Questions

