

National Comparative Audit of Blood Transfusion

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE NATIONAL COMPARATIVE AUDIT?

The National Comparative Audit of Blood Transfusion (NCABT) is a programme of clinical audits which looks at the use and administration of blood and blood components in NHS and independent hospitals in England and North Wales.

For the last five years we have offered participation in our programme to hospitals served by the blood services in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The objective of the audit programme is to provide evidence that blood is being prescribed and used appropriately and administered safely, and to highlight where practice is deviating from the guidelines to the possible detriment of patient care. The programme is funded entirely by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) through the blood pricing mechanism, and is one of the largest independently funded audit programmes in the UK. No charge is made to hospitals participating in the programme. The programme has been in operation since 2003 and, in collaboration with the Clinical Standards Unit of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP), we are shortly to report on our 10th National Comparative Audit.

WHO ARE WE?

The NCABT is hosted by NHSBT in partnership with the Royal College of Physicians Clinical Standards Unit and has a Clinical Lead, a Project Manager and Project Officer. The audit programme is overseen by a Steering Group with wide representation from relevant professional bodies and from the hospital, independent sector, RCP and NHSBT. A Programme Implementation Group exercises executive control over the programme, and each audit project is managed on a day to day basis by a Project Group specially convened for that purpose.

The NCABT team: Megan, John and David



Dr Megan Rowley is the Clinical Lead for the NCABT. She is a Consultant Haematologist based at NHSBT Colindale and St Mary's. Megan can be contacted by email: megan.rowley@nhsbt.nhs.uk



John Grant-Casey is the Project Manager, based in the Oxford Science Park and he can be contacted by email: john.grant-casey@nhsbt.nhs.uk or phone: **01865 381046**



David Dalton is the Project Officer, based in Birmingham. He can be contacted by email: david.dalton@nhsbt.nhs.uk or phone: **0121 278 8216**

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AUDITS

2003 National Comparative Audit of Blood Transfusion
2005 Re-audit of bedside transfusion practice
2008 Bedside transfusion re-audit

Clinical lead: Dr. Fiona Regan
Clinical lead: Dr. Craig Taylor
Clinical lead: Dr. Dora Foukaneli

The key aim of this audit and re-audit has been to determine whether the British Committee for Standards in Haematology guidelines for the administration of blood are being followed at the bedside. Specific objectives were to audit: wearing of identification; that date and time of transfusion have been recorded; and that observations of vital signs have been recorded before, during and after the transfusion.

2007 Audit of the use of platelets

Clinical Lead: Dr Hafiz Quereshi

The objective of this national audit was to examine the use of platelet transfusions against audit standards developed from national guidelines.

2007 Audit of the use of blood in primary elective unilateral hip surgery

Clinical Lead: Dr Hari Boralessa

The objective of this audit was to assess the percentage of patients transfused, whether transfusion is in line with current guidelines and gather information on the service provision in hospitals.

2007 UK comparative audit of upper gastrointestinal bleeding and the use of blood

Clinical Lead: Professor Mike Murphy in collaboration with the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG).

Acute Upper Gastrointestinal Bleeding (AUGIB) is the commonest reason for emergency admission to UK hospitals with a gastrointestinal disorder. Provision of emergency care was the topic of this audit including therapeutic endoscopy which is central to the management of AUGIB.

2008 Audit of overnight blood transfusion

Clinical Lead: Tanya Hawkins

The premise of the audit was that transfusion at night is inherently unsafe, that transfusions out of core hours should be avoided unless clinically essential.

2008 Comparative audit of red cell use in the South West & West Midlands regions

Clinical Lead: Dr Janet Birchall

The main aims of this audit were to understand current red cell transfusion practice and also to consider whether transfusions were in keeping with current guidance.

2009 Audit of the use of fresh frozen plasma

Clinical Leads: Dr Shubha Allard and Dr Simon Stanworth

There is evidence that there are high rates of inappropriate transfusion of fresh frozen plasma (FFP) and this audit assessed non compliance with established guidelines.

2009 National Comparative Audit of blood collection

Clinical Lead: Dr Megan Rowley

The audit aimed to ascertain if, at the time a unit of red cells is collected from a hospital's main blood fridge, the person collecting the unit has adequate written patient details and completes the procedure for collection.

2010 Audit of the use of red cells in neonates and children

Clinical Lead: Dr Helen New

This audit gives an excellent overview of paediatric transfusion and highlights some areas for improvement including the importance of prescribing a specific volume of red cells for children rather than in packs of blood, as is normal practice in adults.

Auditing against National Blood Transfusion Committee guidelines, 78% of O RhD negative blood use was considered appropriate. Overstocking this blood group resulted in transfusion to non-O RhD negative patients to avoid time expiry in 10% of transfusions.

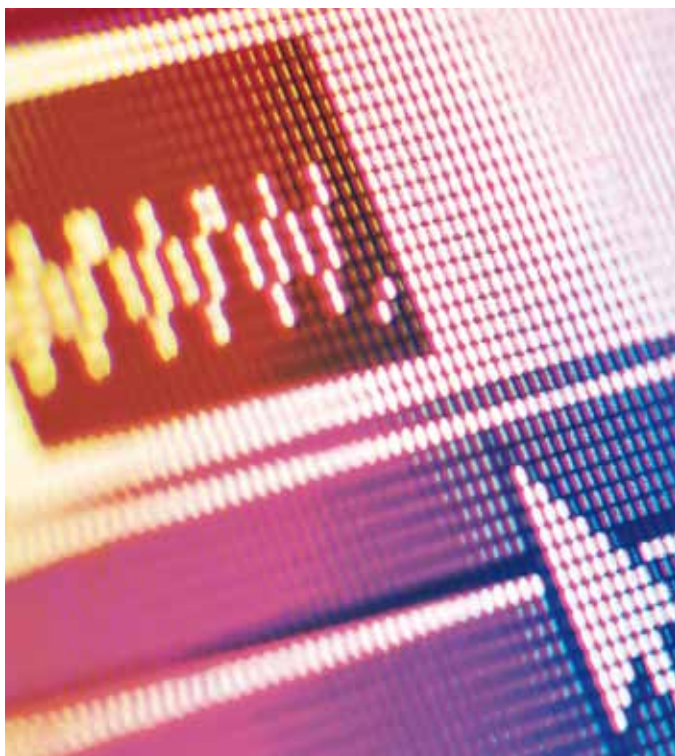
Audits currently in the data collection or reporting phase are:

2010

Audit of the use of platelets in haematology patients

Clinical Leads: Drs Janet Birchall and Lise Estcourt

NATIONAL COMPARATIVE AUDIT ONLINE



All of the National Comparative Audits of Blood Transfusion operate online via its own website

www.nhsbtaudits.co.uk

By visiting this one site hospitals are able to register their interest in participating in future audits, contribute data to existing audits (and download their own data should they wish to perform local analysis) and view or download their personalised audit reports and Microsoft PowerPoint slideshows, which enables them to effectively present audit findings to their healthcare colleagues. The NCABT team is in the process of uploading all audit reports and slideshows created since the programme's inception in 2003.

What's available online?

Online registration

Hospitals who would like to take part in an audit can now register online. We will usually advise hospitals by email when an audit is available for online registration.

Get your own back!

When you enter data online you can download what you entered to your own PC at any time you wish with our download facility. Very handy for keeping a record of your answers or even doing your own analysis!

Read all about it!

On your Audit Homepage is a Document section. In here you will find audit reports and slideshows for past audits you have taken part in, as well as guidance on the current audit and other useful information.

How do you access your audit homepage?

Follow these TWO easy steps:

1. Go to www.nhsbtaudits.co.uk

When you see the 'Welcome! Please login' page you will see four login portals.

- If you work in an NHS Trust, find your Trust name in the drop down list in the **Trust login portal**.
- If you work in an independent hospital, or a hospital outside England, look for your hospital's name in the **Hospital login portal**.

2. Key in the password we sent you.

If you don't have a password or can't find your Trust or hospital, contact David Dalton at **david.dalton@nhsbt.nhs.uk**

AUDITS PLANNED FOR 2011 AND BEYOND

Our future audit programme is decided by the **NCABT Steering Group** taking into account current issues in blood transfusion. The programme consists of **new audits** and **re-audits**.

Audits planned for 2011:

Spring 2011	Re-audit of bedside transfusion practice.
Autumn 2011	Audit of the use of red blood cells within the medical setting.

The possible future audits under consideration by the Steering Group are:

- Audit of the use of anti-D.
- Audit of the management of over anticoagulation with warfarin.
- Re-audit of the use of blood in gastrointestinal bleeding.
- Re-audit of the use of blood in orthopaedic surgery.
- Audit of the management of pre-operative anaemia.
- Audit of post-partum haemorrhage/major obstetric haemorrhage.



HAVE
YOUR SAY...

We are always open to suggestions and will be consulting participants and other stakeholders for their ideas in the near future. If you have any ideas about topics related to blood transfusion you would like to see audited then give us a shout!

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