

SWRTC 2015 Survey on Consent for Transfusion

- The SaBTO report on **Patient Consent for Blood Transfusion** published in October 2011 recommended:

** Valid consent for blood transfusion should be obtained and documented in the patient's clinical record by the healthcare professional*

** Patients who have received a blood transfusion and who were not able to give valid consent prior to the transfusion should be provided with information retrospectively.*

- The SWRTC agreed in May 2015 to undertake a survey of hospitals in the region to see how these recommendations are being implemented.

- 4 question survey was sent to SW TPs:

- 18 responses from SW
- all 17 NHS trusts & SPIRE Bristol

South West Regional Transfusion Committee
2015 Survey on Consent for Transfusion

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Please can you take a few minutes to complete the questions below

Trust/hospital: _____

In your trust/hospital:

a) Is patient consent for transfusion documented: Yes / No

If Yes to a) -
 Is there an agreed method of documenting consent: Yes / No

>> If Yes, please indicate how this is done:

- consent 'sticker' in notes	[]
- transfusion consent form	[]
- surgical consent form	[]
- on transfusion record	[]
- 'free text' entry in patient notes	[]
- other:	_____

If No to a) -
 Is there a specific reason/policy decision for this?

b) Is there a mechanism to ensure the patient is aware that transfusion has occurred prior to their discharge: Yes / No

>> If Yes – what is this mechanism?

c) Is the consent process audited: Yes / No

>> If Yes – how frequently?

a.

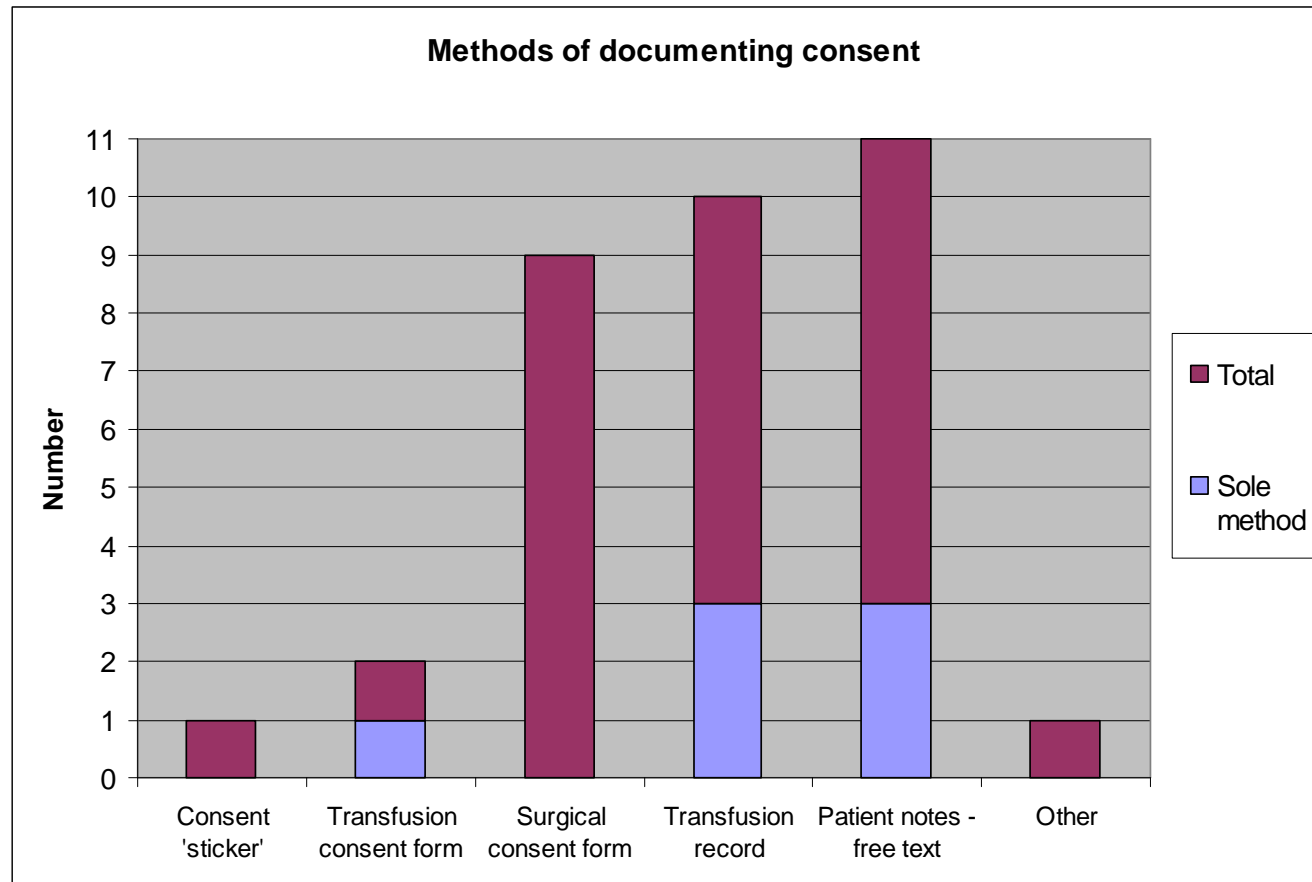
i) *Is patient consent for transfusion documented?*

- all responded bar one 'Yes' (but the 'No' stated "*except for Haematology Patients who have specific consent form for regular transfusions*")
- additional comments: "*Policy requires it*" and "*Rarely*"

ii) *Agreed method of documenting consent?*

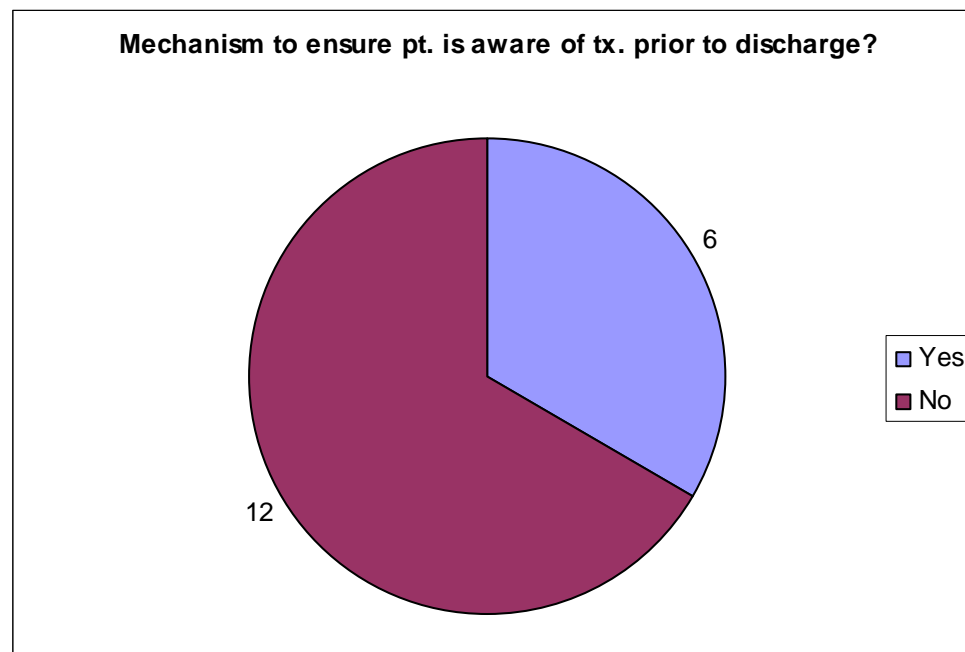
- 10 stated 'Yes' ; the other 8 were blank but all went ticked at least one box for methods of documenting consent
- the one 'No' to i) commented "*verbal consent is gained and we advise documentation in the patient notes*"

aii.



Other: tick “consent verbally agreed” and “consent/information sheet given to patient” on the blood track system PDA at the bedside check for all transfusion apart from emergency modes

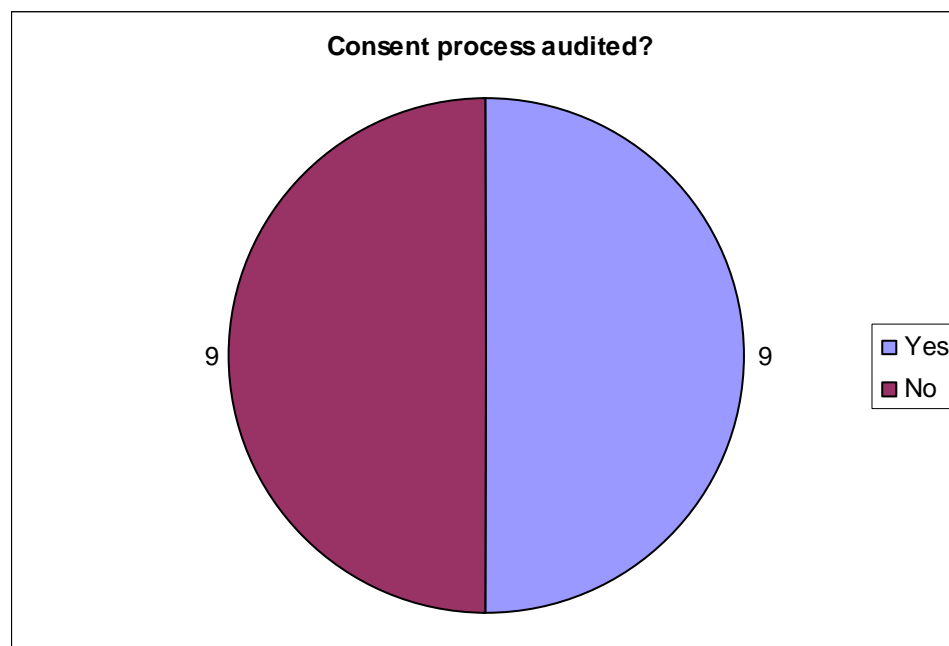
b.



Yes:

- 3 - patient information leaflet
- 1 - care pathway
- 1 - discharge checklist
- 1 - transfusion policy

C.



Yes:

2 - annually

1 - quarterly

3 - cited the NCA

..but all took part in NCA of Consent

...and 6 stated they are planning/
about to re-audit

Comment

The first question is not really a Y/N answer for us: it should be a 'yes' and that is what our policy dictates, but our audit results show there is significant room for improvement - so I am not sure the survey will reflect actual practice

Conclusion

- There appears to be a good level of consent for transfusion supported in the SW region, but harder to determine/ assure how much is being done in practice
- Free text in notes is the most widely cited method of consenting
 - would this be easier with use of a consent sticker (method only cited by one respondent)