

# The blood supply – drivers, challenges and future plans

**Rebecca Gerrard**  
**Head of Better Blood Transfusion**

## 3 Key Messages

- Blood supply in UK may not always be plentiful
- Need to reduce waste across the supply chain
- Involve the patient and use blood appropriately

# NHS Blood and Transplant

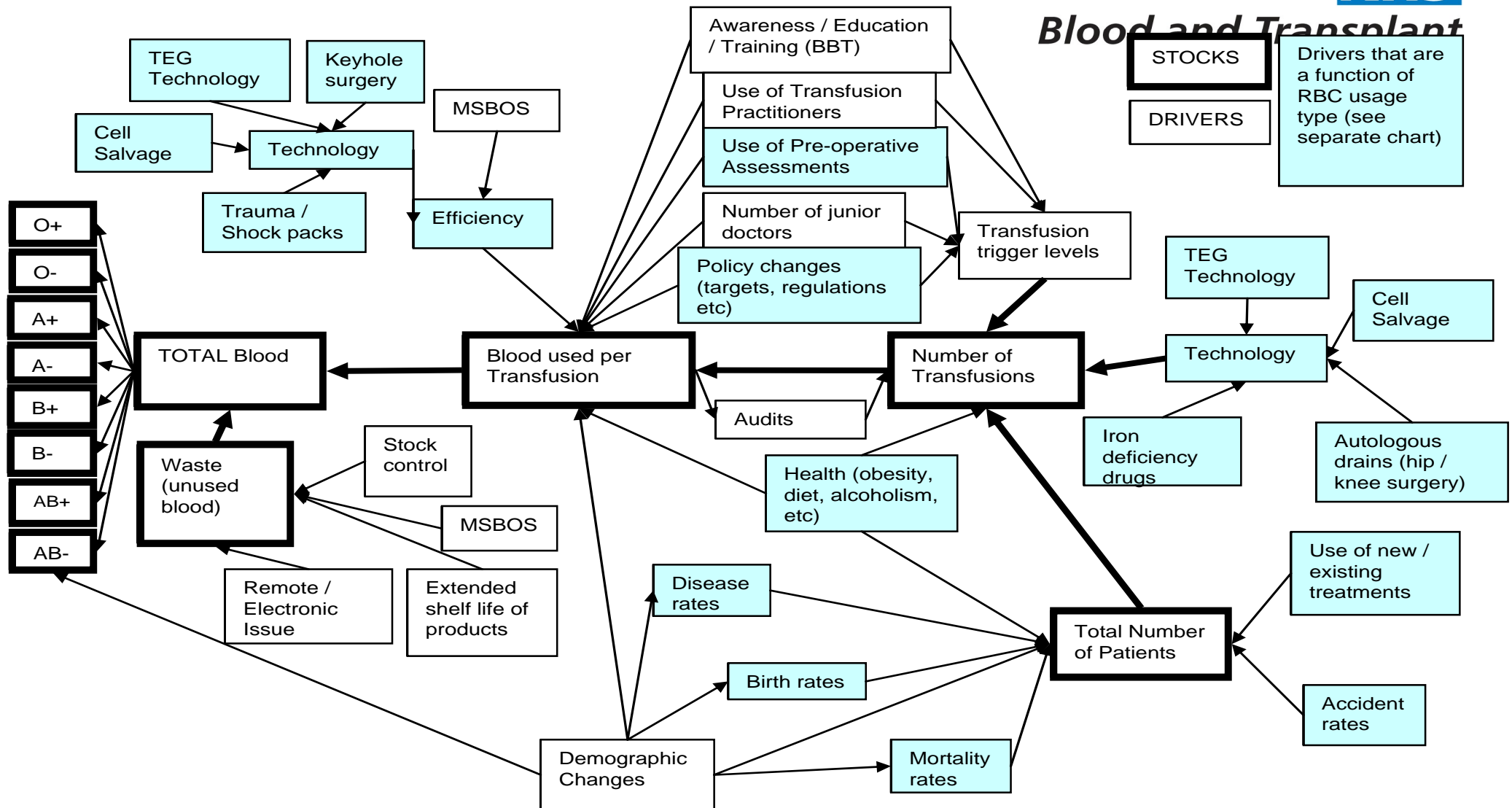
- Manages the national voluntary donation system for blood, tissues, organs and stem cells turning these precious donations into products that can be used safely to the benefit of the patient
- Last year received 3,500 organ and 4,000 tissue donations and banked 2,200 cord blood units from across the UK
- Supply around 2 million units of blood a year to hospitals in England and north Wales

# What are the current drivers for the blood supply?

## Demand Drivers for red blood cells in the hospital



## Blood and Transplant

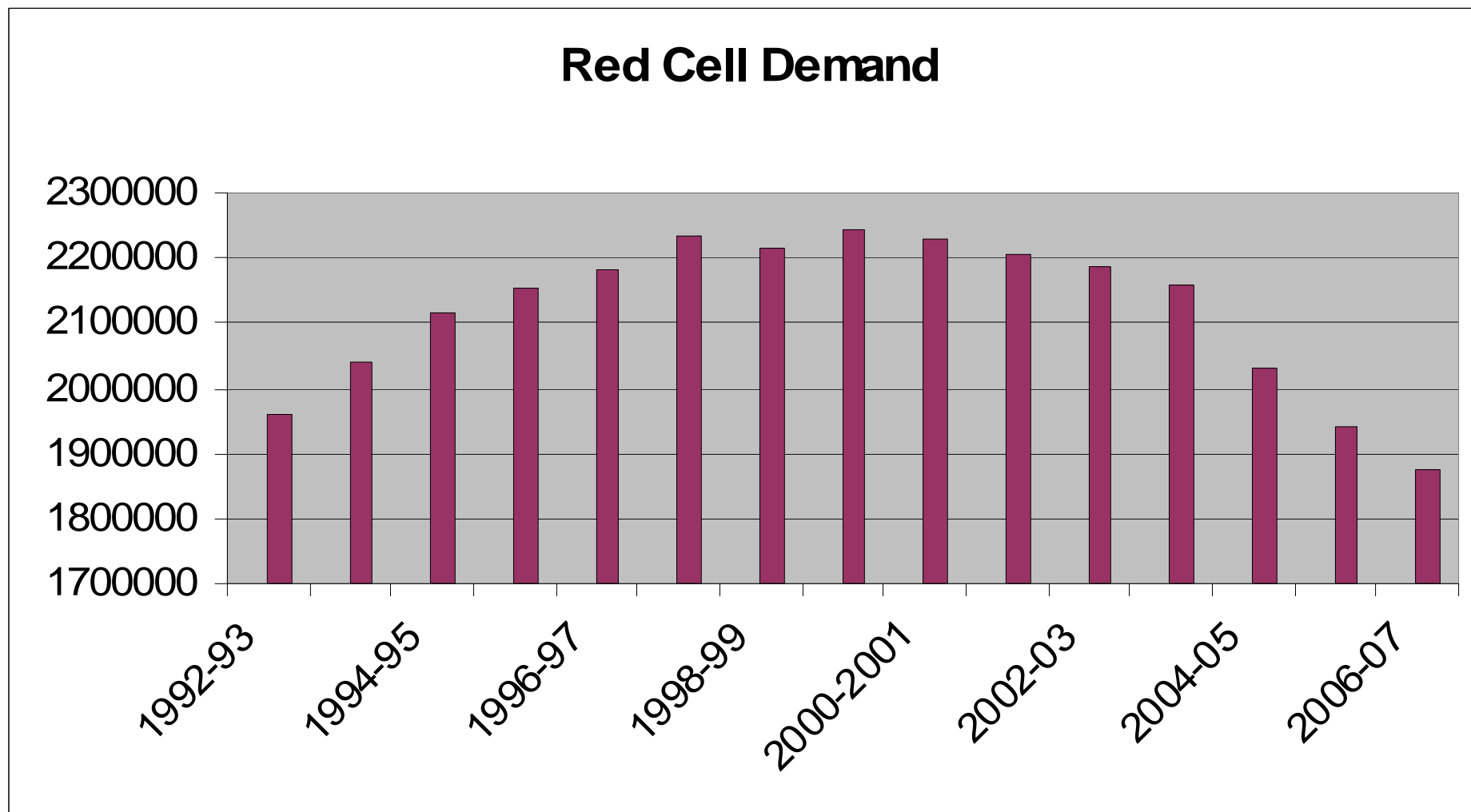


# Right Blood, Right Reason

25<sup>th</sup> January 2013

# Demand Drivers in NHSBT

- Demand for blood - benchmarking
- Inappropriate use - audit data
- DH - NHSBT Commercial Review 2011
- NHSBT Strategy
- Compliance with legislation / inspections
- Minimise risk / improve safety
- Patients
- Reduce costs / wastage



But.....

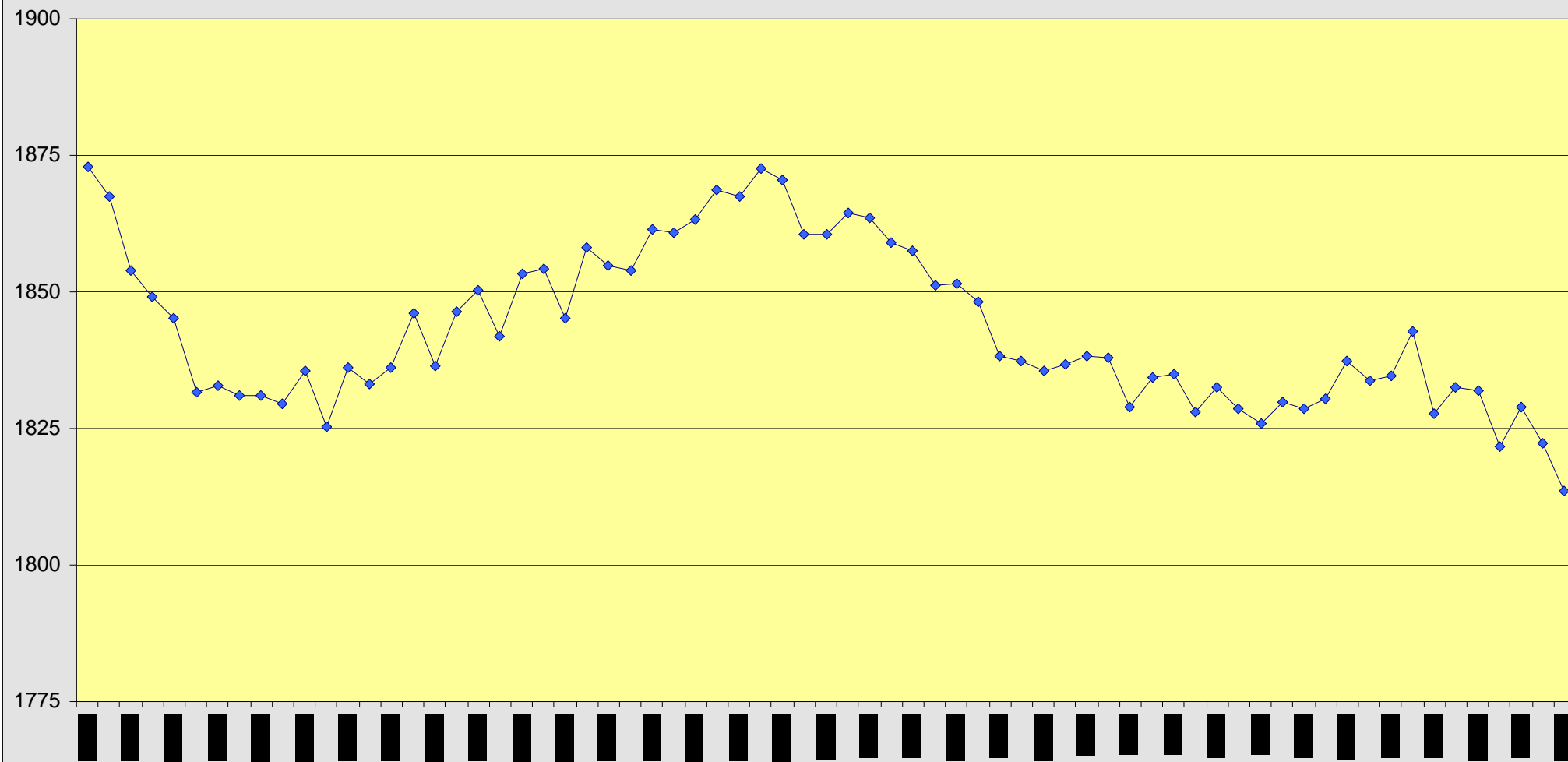
- Things changed in September 2007



# September 2007

- Status Quo released their 28th album 'In Search of the Fourth Chord'
- House prices peaked
- Gordon Brown was appointed Prime Minister
- The onset of the financial crisis - Bank of England was forced to hand emergency funding to Northern Rock
- Summer 2007 was the wettest on record
- Demand for blood components started to rise

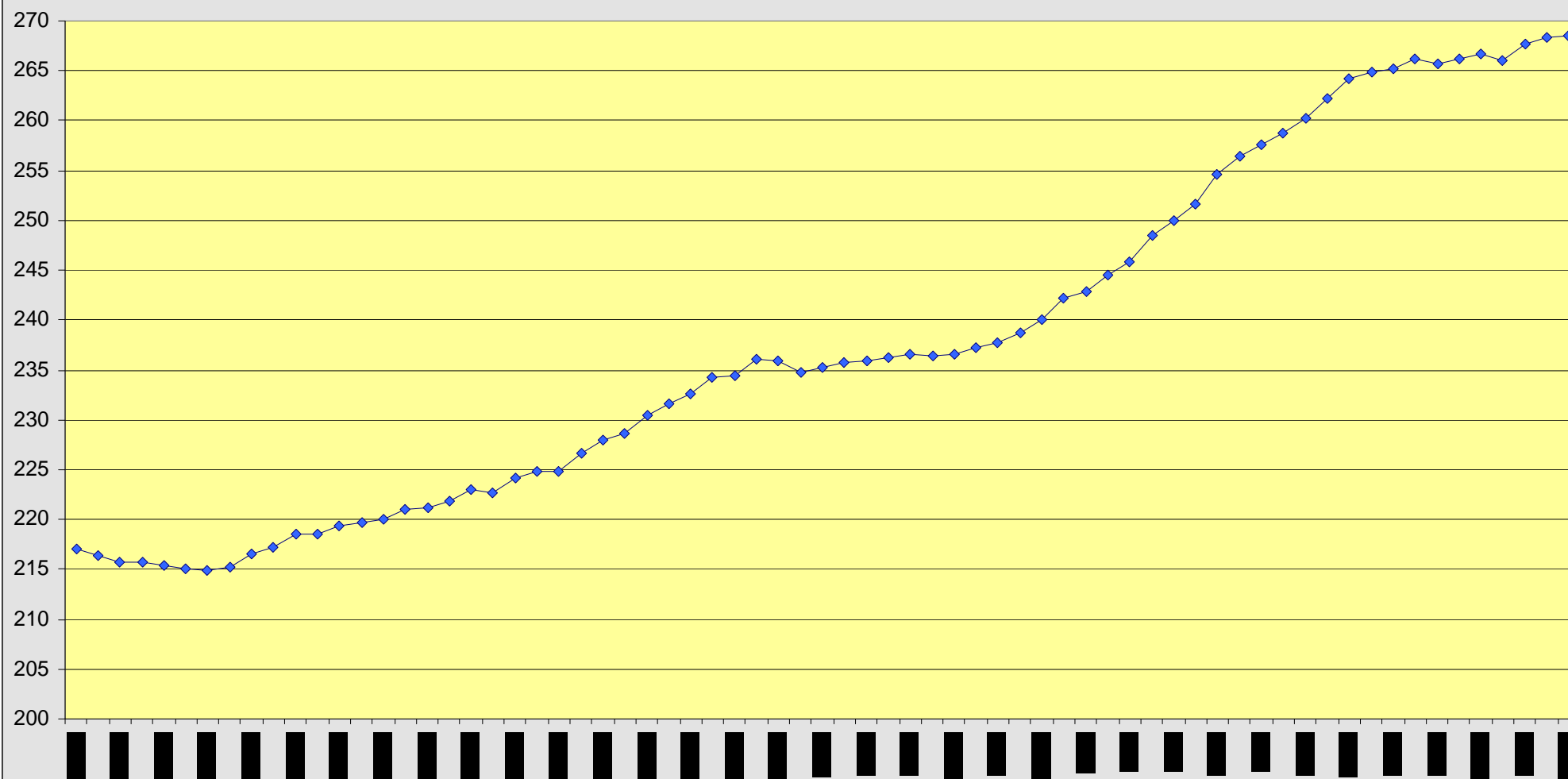
### Moving Annual Total of Red Cell [Full Unit Equiv] Issues to Hospitals - 000s



Right Blood, Right Reason

25<sup>th</sup> January 2013

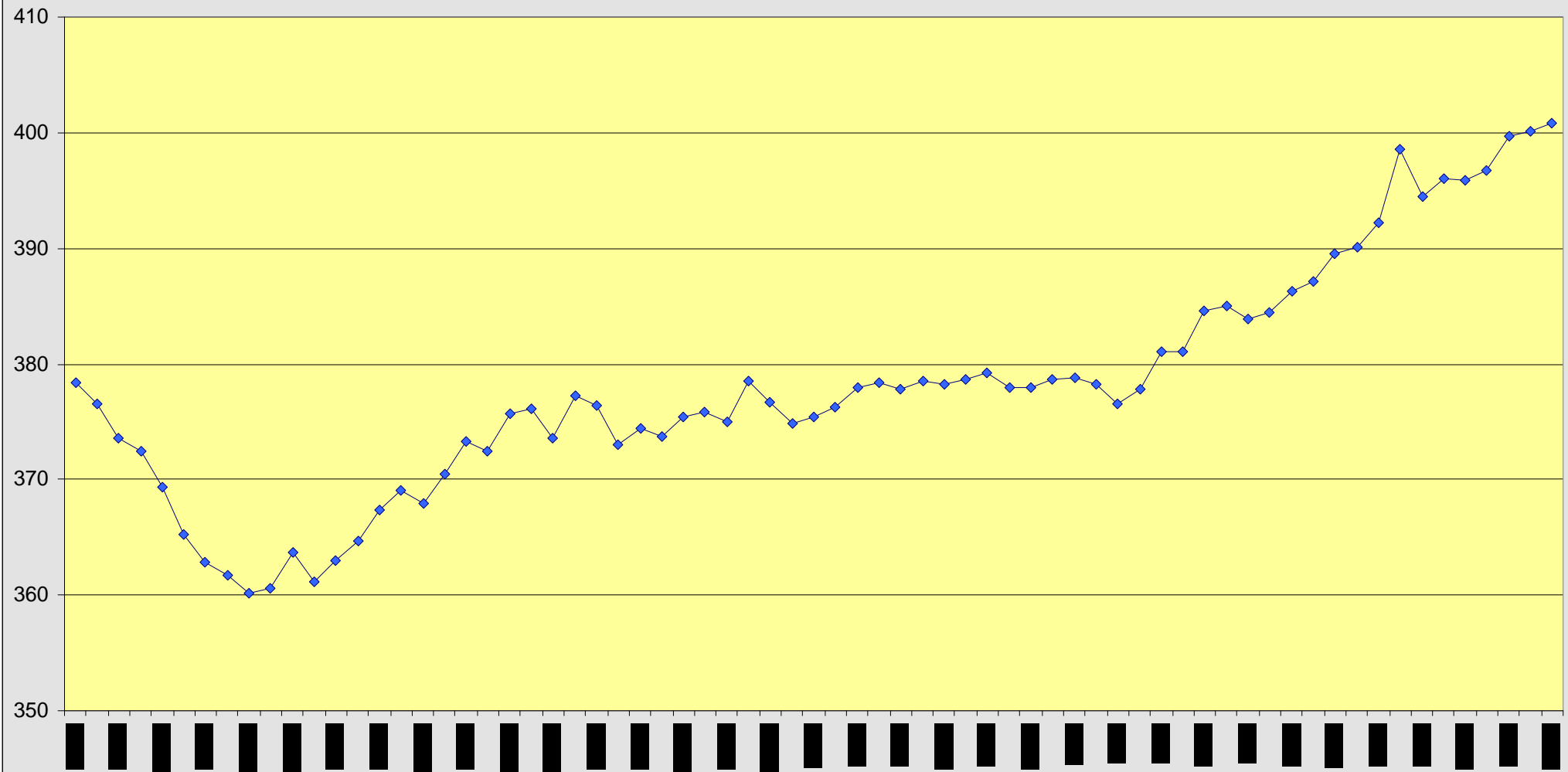
### Moving Annual Total of Platelet Issues to Hospitals - 000s



Right Blood, Right Reason

25<sup>th</sup> January 2013

### Moving Annual Total of Frozen Component Issues to Hospitals - 000s



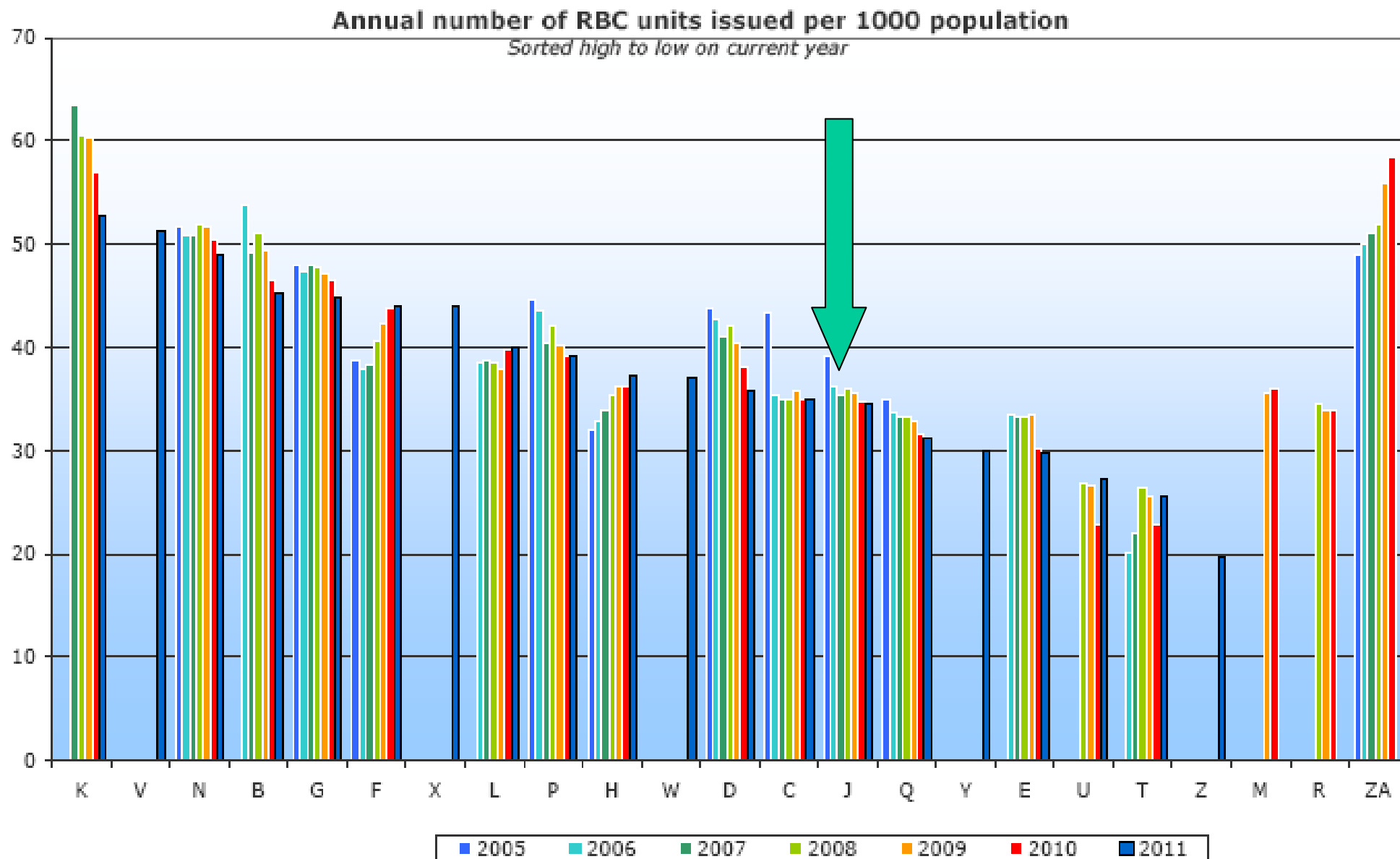
Right Blood, Right Reason

25<sup>th</sup> January 2013

## Blood Usage in comparison with other European countries

### Red Cell Usage

- NHSBT reported a blood usage rate of 34.5 units / 1000 population.
- Compares well with the other well developed EBA members



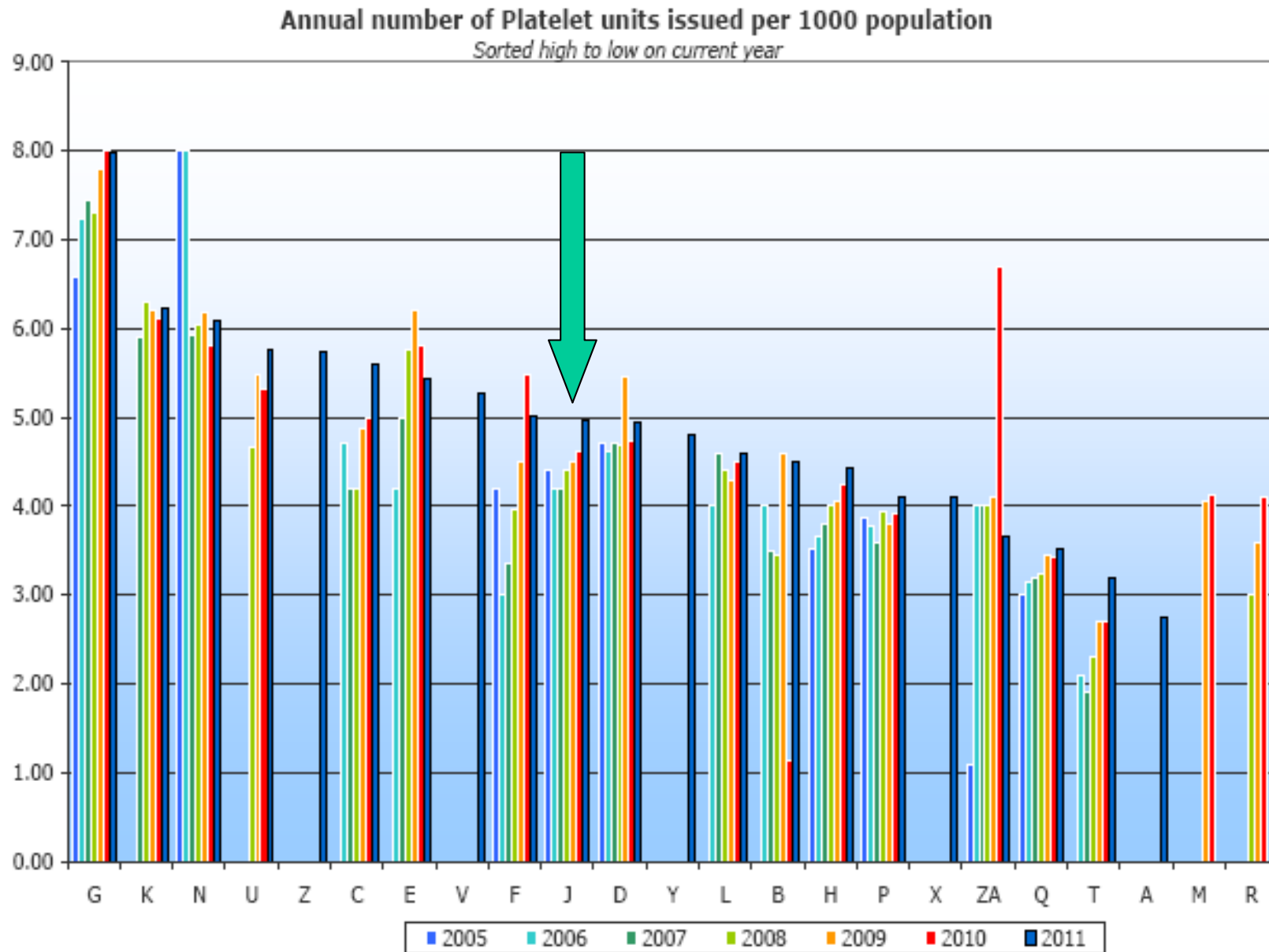
Right Blood, Right Reason

25<sup>th</sup> January 2013

## Platelet Usage in comparison with other European countries

### Platelets

- NHSBT reports a rate of 5.0 ATDs / 1000 population in 2011-12
- This fell mid-range in the reported usage rates (3.2 to 8.0)



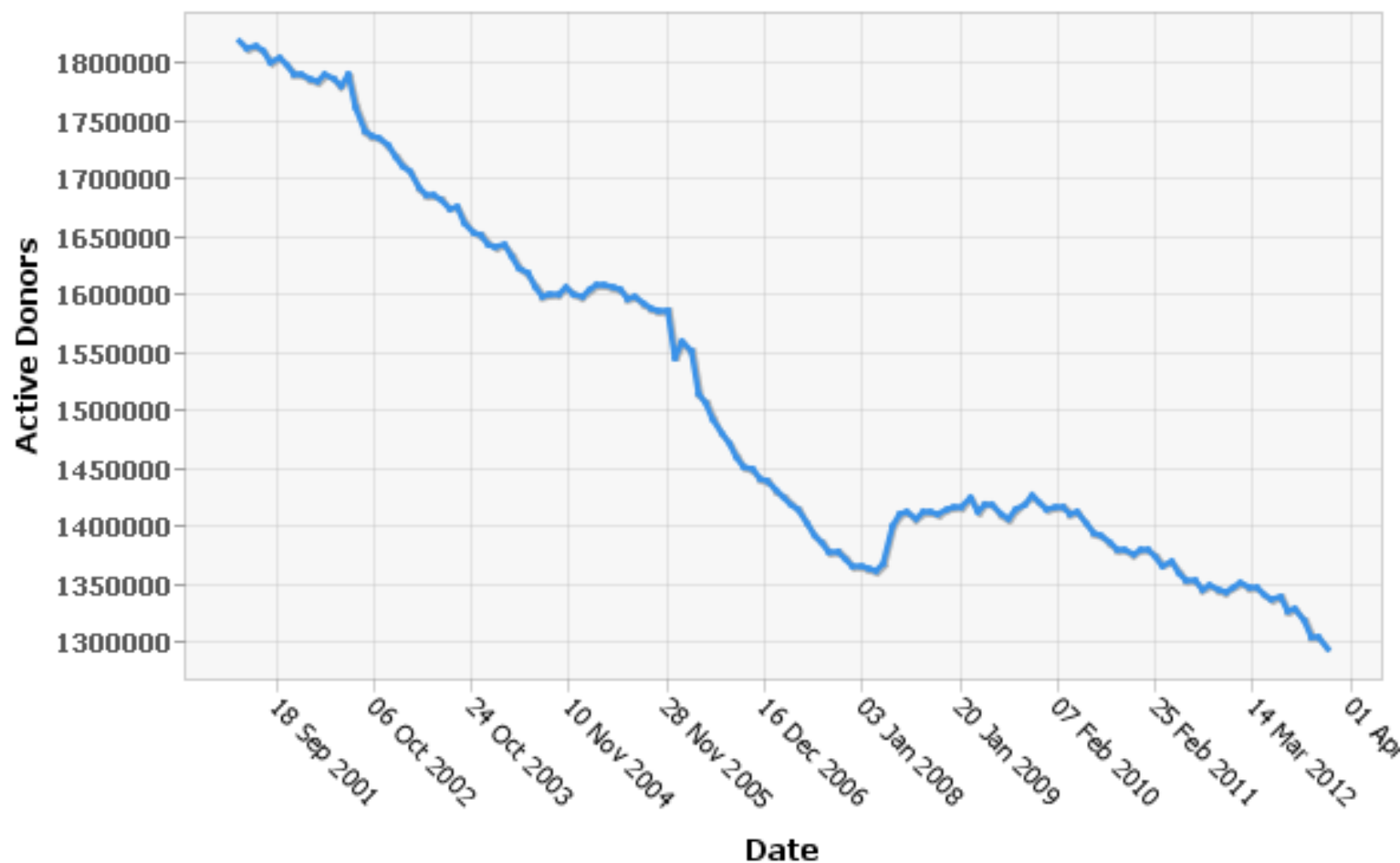


# What about donations?

- Is blood donation keeping pace with issue?

# Long term trend in active donor numbers

*Blood and Transplant*



# Demographics

- Demand Driver Parameters used in model Projections:

Contributory factor: RBC	1 year	3 years	10 years
Demographic effects	1.3% increase	4.3% increase	15.9% increase
Changes in the rate of procedures / treatment per 100,000 population	1.0% increase	3.0% increase	10.3% increase
Changes in the average red blood cell use per procedure / treatment assuming a power-law fit.	2.5% decrease	6.7% decrease	16.3% decrease

# Demand Predications

- Clinical demand for all main blood components is expected to increase especially for:
  - O neg red cells
  - Platelets
  - Cryoprecipitate

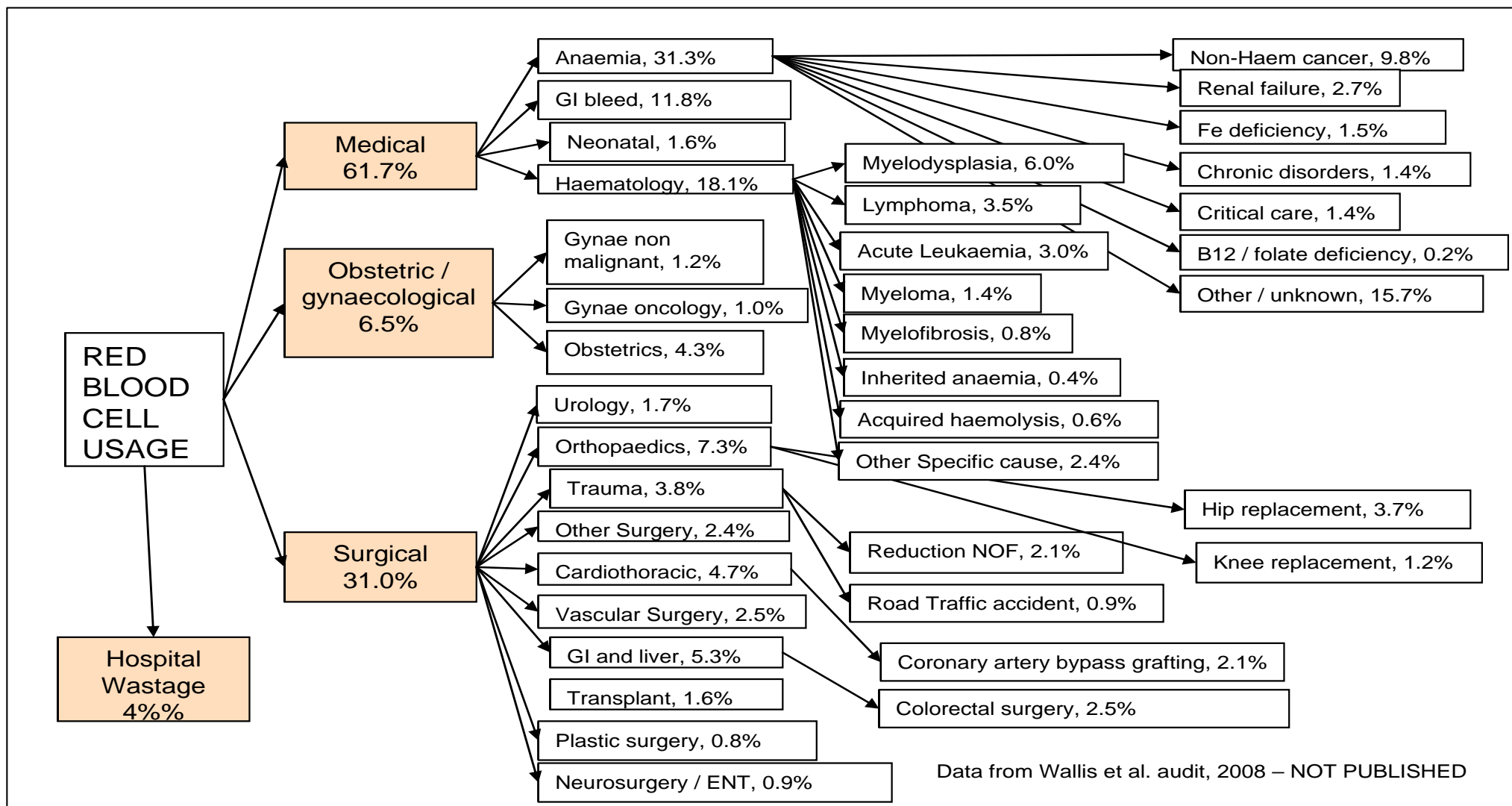
So.....

- Demand is increasing....
- Donor base is declining....

Where is all that blood going?

# Red blood cell usage

## Blood and Transplant



Data from Wallis et al. audit, 2008 – NOT PUBLISHED

# Do we need all that blood?

- Are we using it appropriately?
- Are we wasting any?

# What do audits tell us about inappropriate use?

15 - 62% inappropriate



<b>Title</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of hospitals</b>	<b>N cases audited</b>	<b>Inappropriate use</b>
Red cells in hip replacement	2007	139/167 (83%)	7465	48% patients
Upper gastrointestinal bleeding	2007	217/ 257 (84%)	6750	15% of rbc's, 42% of platelets, 27% of FFP
Red cell transfusion	2008	26/ 56 (46%) hospitals in two regions	1113	19.5% of transfusions
FFP	2009	186/ 248 (75%)	5032	43% to adults, 48% to children, 62% to infants

<b>Title</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of hospitals</b>	<b>No. cases audited</b>	<b>Inappropriate use</b>
Platelets in haematology	2011	139/ 153 (91%)	3296	27% of transfusions
Cryo-precipitate	2012	43/82 (52.4%) from 3 regions	449	25% of transfusions
Red cells in Adult Medical Patients - Part 1	2012	197 from across UK	9126	<p>20% of cases had a possible potentially reversible anaemia.</p> <p>Transfusion was started above the agreed audit haemoglobin standard in 35% of patients with anaemia and 6% of patients with blood loss.</p> <p>33% of patients were transfused to <math>\geq 2</math>g/dl above the agreed audit standard.</p> <p>Overall, 53% of cases fell outside the algorithm set</p>

# What about wastage?

## In NHSBT in 11/12:

- 19,600 units of r bcs wasted (1.1% of issues)
- 14,400 units of platelets wasted (5.4% of issues)

## In hospitals:

- 39,600 units r bcs wasted (2.2%)
- 10,700 units platelets (4%)

The highest wastage occurred in the Medically Ordered Not Used category, at almost 50% of the total wastage.

# NHSBT Commercial Review 2011

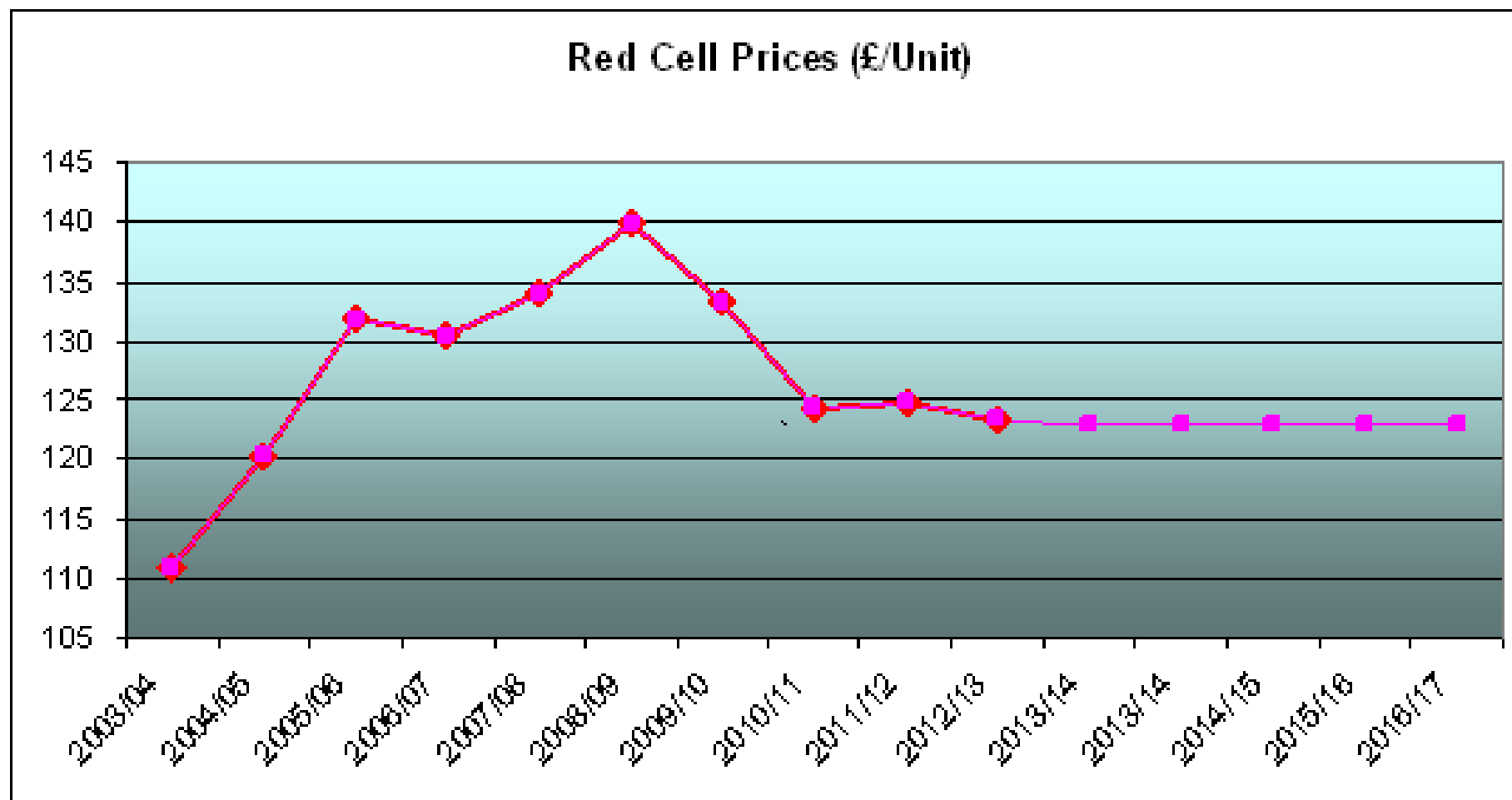
## Recommendation 1

'More work should be done both at national and trust level to support trusts, in achieving and maintaining best practice, to reduce the inappropriate use of red cells, platelets and fresh frozen plasma; this would improve patient care and reduce costs to trusts and would in turn reduce demand and direct costs on NHSBT'.

# NHSBT Strategy

'To deliver a modern, world class blood service that provides a sustainable and dependable supply of blood components that meet all safety, quality, compliance and service standards, as effectively as possible.'





# Safety / Minimising risks

- Blood transfusion has a chequered history
- No clear consensus for many aspects
- Costs rising
- New safety measures expensive
- Inspection and regulation
- Blood services need to constantly assess new risks

# What do we tell patients?

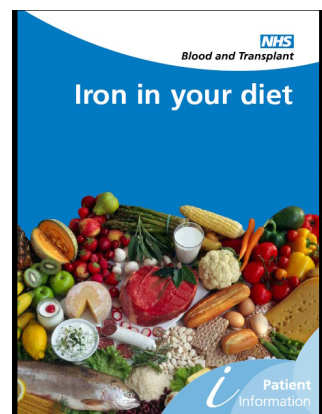
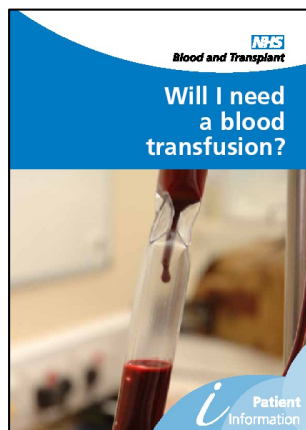
- 'The risk of getting hepatitis from a platelet transfusion in the UK is about 1 in 1 million for Hep B and 1 in 72 million for Hep C. The chance of getting HIV is about 1 in 6 million.'

OR.....

- 'You are more likely to die in a gas incident (fire, explosion or carbon monoxide poisoning) than to get Hep B from a blood transfusion.'



# Public and Patient Involvement



Please ask

**Salvage?**  
is a way of collecting the blood that is lost after your operation, so that it can be given to you. It is sometimes called autologous blood using your own blood.

**no?**  
o different types of cell salvage:

**led during your operation.** This is called **intraoperative Cell Salvage**.  
Blood that is lost during your operation is collected using a cell salvage machine. This machine separates the different parts of your blood and collects just the red cells (which carry oxygen). These red cells can then be given back to you during or just after your operation. Your red cells will only ever be given to you and will never be used for someone else.

This type of cell salvage is only suitable for some operations. Ask your doctor or nurse if it is suitable for you.



**Blood collected after your operation.** This is called **Postoperative Cell Salvage**.  
Sometimes blood that is lost immediately after your operation can also be collected and returned to you (usually when you are back on the ward). This is called postoperative cell salvage and is usually used after certain operations e.g. knee surgery.

**What are the benefits of cell salvage?**  
During certain operations you may lose some blood. Cell salvage can reduce the chance that you will need a transfusion of blood donated by a blood donor. This therefore reduces the very small risks associated with receiving this type of blood.



about CELL SALVAGE



Jeff underwent hip resurfacing surgery and received autologous cell salvaged blood. He did not require donor blood and recovered remarkably quickly returning to his managerial position at the head of a busy accident repair centre. He also continues with his active lifestyle golfing, fishing and looking after his grandchildren.

**Which patients could benefit from cell salvage?**  
Patients having certain operations e.g. cardiac (heart) surgery. Cell salvage may reduce the amount of donor blood they need.

Patients who do not wish to receive blood from a blood donor.

**Why isn't it suitable for everyone?**  
Not all operations result in enough blood loss to enable cell salvage to be used. For some operations cell salvage is not recommended e.g. some bowel surgery.

**Where can I get more information?**  
Ask your hospital doctor or nurse if cell salvage is available in your hospital.

If it is, your doctor or nurse will be able to advise you if it is suitable for you and for the operation you are having.

**For further information about cell salvage visit:**  
[www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk/csp/index.htm](http://www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk/csp/index.htm)



Right Patient, Right Blood



<http://www.blood.co.uk/about-blood/information-for-patients/>

Right Blood, Right Reason

25<sup>th</sup> January 2013

# Avoidable headlines

## **The Telegraph**

**“Killed by a needless blood transfusion”**

**Judy Kenny, whose husband was the first to die from vCJD contracted via a blood transfusion, is campaigning for tighter controls over the procedure**

'To this day I don't know why Deryck needed that transfusion' – Judy Kenny at home in Bournemouth, with a picture of her late husband Deryck  
15 Oct 2012

# What other challenges are there for the blood supply?

# Supply Chain Challenges

- Logistics / Transport – including ad hocs
- 24/7 working
- Vehicle and lab machines under-utilised
- Blood collection sessions
- Diminishing resources
- Consolidation

# What are the future plans for the blood supply?

# Blood Donation Strategy

- Blood donation
  - Need to attract sufficient donors to meet the future demand
  - ‘Digital natives’
  - Club 96
  - Migration

21<sup>st</sup> Century - Combining the kindness of strangers with tough economics

# Improve Supply Chain Planning

- Reduce waste
- Optimise inventory levels across the supply chain
- Reduced age at issue
- Optimise intra-centre transports
- Improve forecasting
- Reduce substitutions
- Increased customer satisfaction

# Really find out where blood actually does go!

- Need timely data of transfusion recipients for future planning and targeting of major users for appropriate blood-saving strategies.
- Targeted audits of appropriate use with effective action plans.



# Pathology Modernisation

- Reduce costs / consolidate / create pathology networks or hub and spoke systems
- ITS in NHSBT:
  - shared stock management systems
  - automatic replenishment systems
  - integrated transfusion laboratories

# Reduce Inappropriate Use

Better Blood  
Transfusion



Patient Blood  
Management

- **Patient** - at the heart of decision making
- **Blood** - conserve patient's own blood, avoid transfusion where appropriate
- **Management** - organise and co-ordinate

## 3 Key Messages

- Blood supply in UK may not always be plentiful
- Need to reduce waste across the supply chain
- Involve the patient and use blood appropriately

# Thank You

Rebecca Gerrard

Head of Better Blood Transfusion

[rebecca.gerrard@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:rebecca.gerrard@nhsbt.nhs.uk)