

Where do platelets go?

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Where do platelets go?

- Represent clinical team
- Final part of the platelet journey
- Challenge - limiting use to approved indications

2010 NCA of Platelets use in Haematology

Why was this audit necessary?

- Previous audits showed significant amount of use outside of recommended guidelines
- Up to 57% of all platelet transfusions are given to haematology patients
- Risks associated with use and cost

Facts and Figures

- This is the largest audit of platelet use in haematology patients ever reported
- A platelet transfusion was audited on average every 40 minutes for 3 months, a total of 3,296
- So what did we learn.....?

Why is this audit important?

- **28%** of the platelet transfusions audited were considered inappropriate
 - This was despite taking into consideration factors which altered transfusion thresholds
- Recommends key areas that could be changed to improve practice

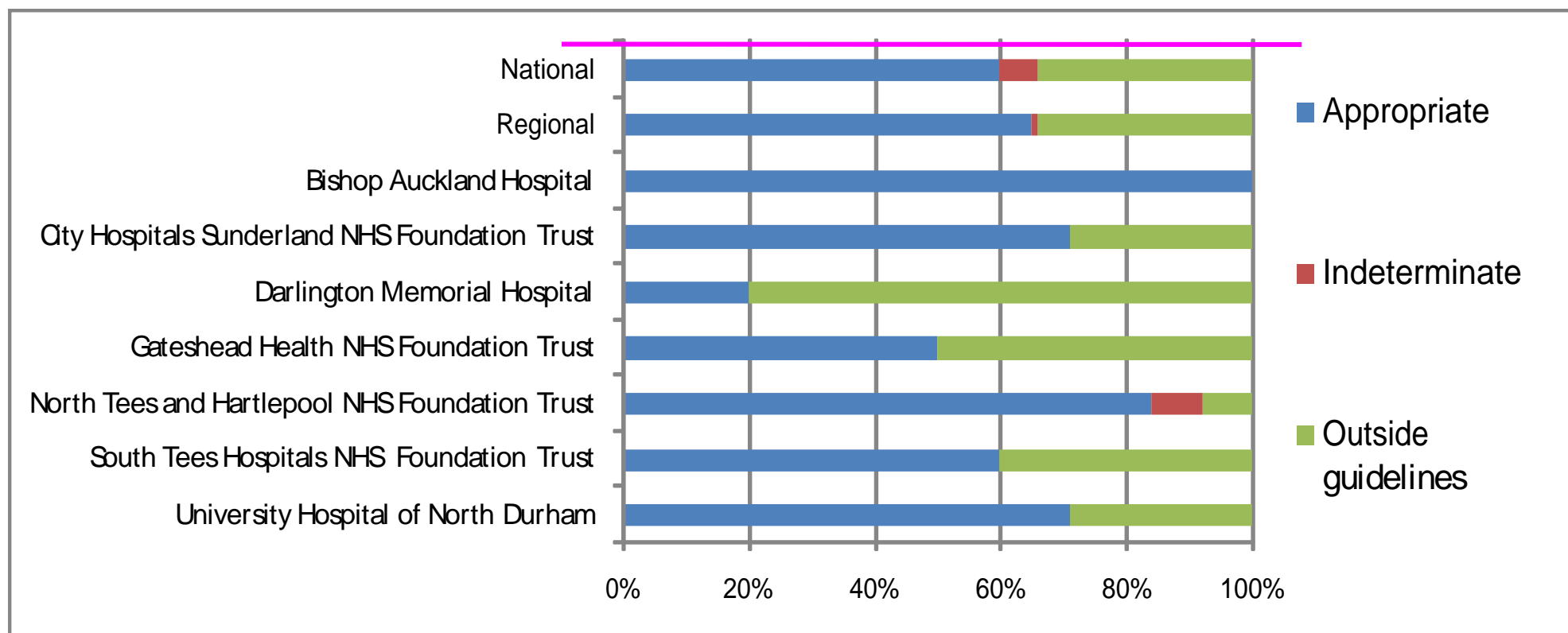
Summary of appropriateness of prophylactic, pre-procedure and therapeutic transfusions

Reason for Transfusion	Audited episodes in each category	Appropriate	Indeterminate	Outside guidelines
Prophylactic	69%	60%	6%	34%
Pre - procedure	15%	64%	13%	23%
Therapeutic	13%	84%	12%	5%
Unclear	3%	0%	100%	0%

Key results

- **Organisational survey**
 - **36%** - prophylactic platelets to stable patients with chronic bone marrow failure
 - **23%** routinely give platelets prior to bone marrow trephine. **12%** routinely give platelets prior to a bone marrow aspirate.
- **Prophylactic transfusion**
 - **69%** of all transfusions episodes
 - **34%** were considered inappropriate
 - **26%** Transfused above algorithm thresholds
 - **8%** To patients with MDS who had no additional risk factors for bleeding
 - **10%** were double dose

Appropriateness of prophylactic transfusions

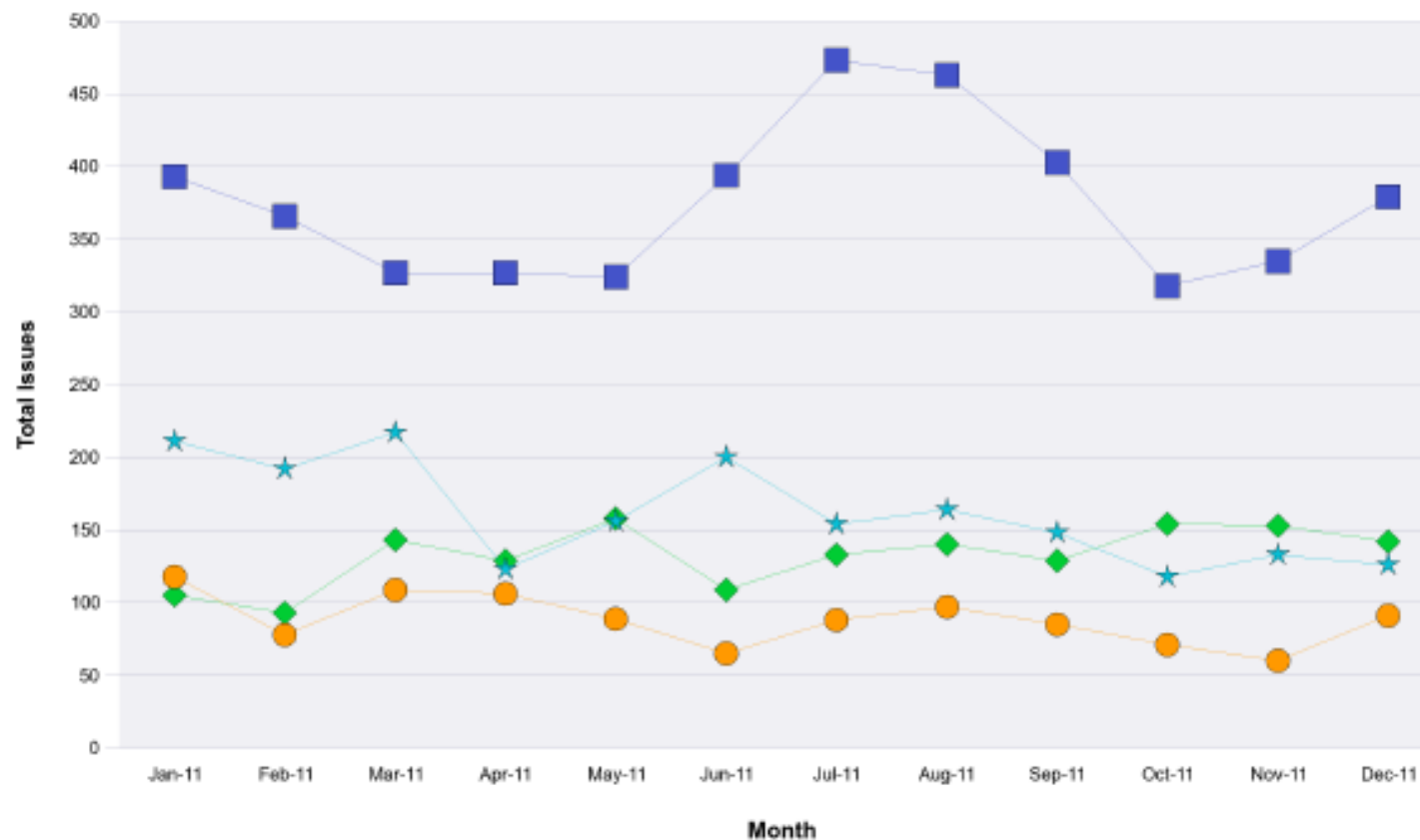


Key recommendations for hospitals

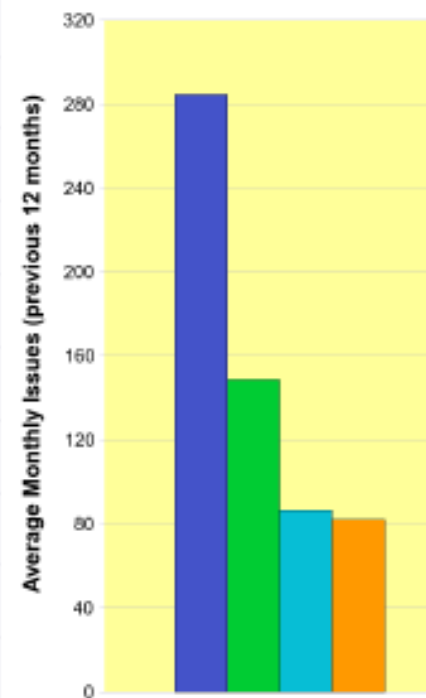
- Local guidelines should be based on BCSH guidelines and should specify that platelets are not routinely required:-
 - Prior to bone marrow aspiration & biopsy
 - In stable patients with long term bone marrow failure
- Double dose prophylactic transfusions should not be used routinely

Platelet Usage - Very High

Monthly Issues last 12 months



Average Monthly Issues (Jan 10 to Dec 10)



Other initiatives developed to help you to improve appropriate use

- Audit key facts document
- One page platelet summary fact sheet
- National Blood Transfusion Committee, Indication Codes for Transfusion – poster
- “Don’t use two when one will do” – poster
- Platelet educational workshops