

Blood Matters report for blood management (or equivalent) committee

February 2022

OFFICIAL

Strategic Plan 2019–22

Goal:

Through a collaborative approach support and enhance best practices in quality care, clinical safety, and blood management (sustainable, responsible, safe and appropriate use), for improved patient outcomes in Victorian health services.

Objectives:

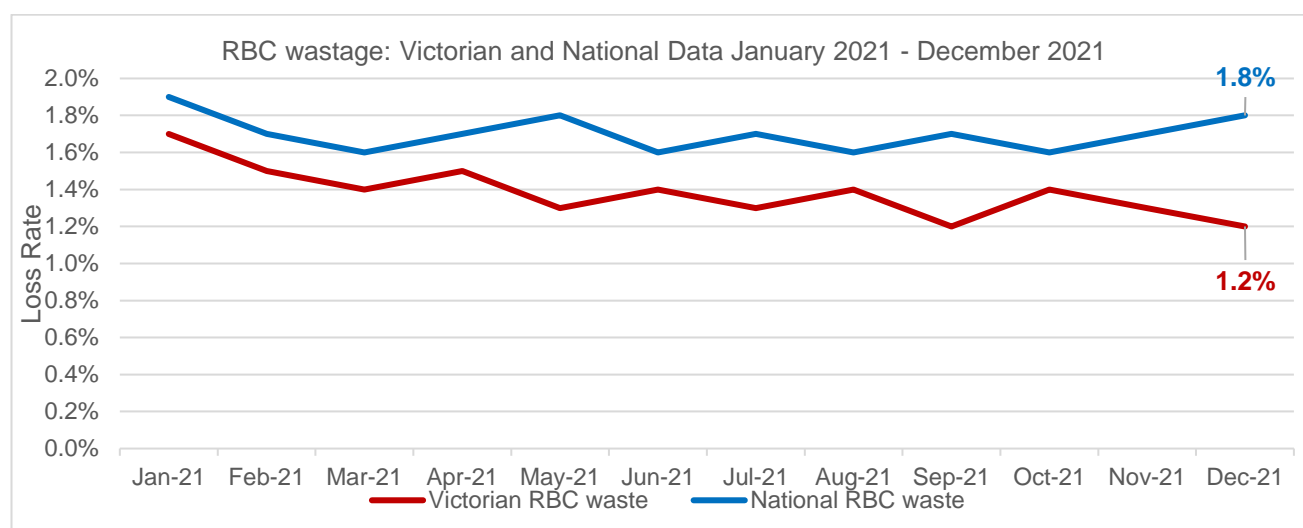
Use innovative and diverse approaches to:

- Promote and support the development of strategies that optimise appropriate use of blood products, alternatives, and person-centred care through national and local governance frameworks and standards
- Foster and strengthen partnerships and stakeholder relationships
- Analyse data and disseminate findings across the sector to raise awareness, influence practice, promote efficiencies, and provide value
- Provide and promote expert knowledge sharing and collaboration across the sector, including specific initiatives, tools and specialised advice.

Blood stewardship

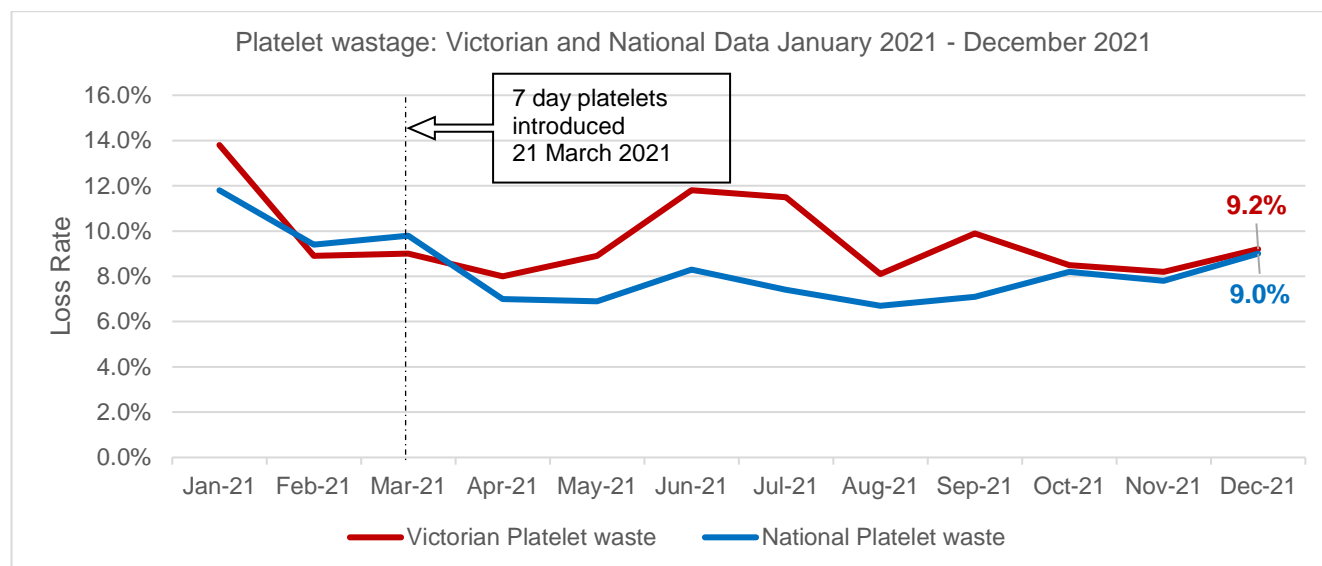
RBC wastage

As the festive period draws to a close, we applaud Victorian health services' dedication to minimising waste over this challenging period. RBC wastage remains consistently below national average. Blood Matters will circulate a summary of the festive period wastage (November – February) in March.



Platelet wastage

Victorian platelet wastage has improved over the previous quarter. While still above national average, there has been a decrease in excess wastage. We appreciate the monitoring of inventory levels and ordering practices to help reduce platelet waste.



Blood management summit for scientists

The annual blood management summit for scientists, offers scientific and local industry updates for our laboratory colleagues across the blood sector.

The 2022 summit is planned for 31 August and depending on the COVID-19 situation at the time, it will likely be a hybrid meeting. Further information will be circulated closer to the time.

Auditing:

Survey of electronic medical record implementation

The 2021 audit was a survey of health services experience of blood management using an electronic medical record (EMR). All data has been received, the results are currently being analysed and the report developed.

Consent audit

This year Blood Matters will undertake a blood transfusion consent audit in two parts: part one policy, part two a medical record audit of consent documentation practices. This audit was last completed in 2012. It is anticipated that data collection will commence in July 2022.

Serious transfusion incident reporting (STIR) system

Reports to STIR continue to be sent from health services, despite the increased workload associated with COVID-19. For this, we thank health services for their ongoing focus on patient safety and incident management.

STIR reports (Annual report 2019-20) and current and past bulletins are available on the Blood Matters webpage <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/patient-care/speciality-diagnostics-therapeutics/blood-matters/serious-transfusion-incidents>

The 2020-21 annual report is currently under development and will be sent with individual health service reports of investigations received when final.

At present over 100 health services, both public and private, are registered with STIR for reporting of incidents. Reporting to STIR plays an important part in meeting the National Safety and Quality in Healthcare Standards for accreditation. Thank you to the health services who participate in this STIR program.

For any health service in Victoria, Tasmania, Northern Territory or Australian Capital Territory not currently reporting to STIR, please contact Blood Matters at: Bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au if you wish to participate.

Blood Matters Project Nurse – Subcutaneous immunoglobulin (SCIg) implementation project

We welcome Anne Graham into the role of project nurse to continue the great start her predecessors have made in the area of SCIg.

The current state of SCIg in Victoria:

- 21 sites with active programs
- 373 Victorian patients receiving SCIg (Q2 2021-2022)
- 2282 Victorian patients eligible for SCIg by medical diagnosis (Q2 2021-2022)

The next forum for SCIg Coordinators is Wednesday 23 February, via Webex. This program will include a focus on Cuvitru along with an update of the SCIg access program and an opportunity for general discussion.

If you would like more information on SCIg or assistance with commencing a program, or extending your existing program, contact the Blood Matters Project Nurse, Anne Graham via email at: angraham@redcrossblood.org.au

SCIg implementation tools, resources, and health service SCIg contacts available at: [Subcutaneous Immunoglobulin \(SCIg\) access program \(health.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/subcutaneous-immunoglobulin-sci-g-access-program)

Blood Matters forums

Currently, the Blood Matters forums will continue to be virtual. While we are unable to meet face to face, it is still important to have the opportunity for education, networking and for the sharing of ideas. The upcoming March 7 forum will discuss issues around massive transfusion and critical bleeding situations.

This year the Blood Matters Program celebrates its 20th anniversary. We are planning a celebration in August and would like to include projects and improvements from across the state. Please do let us know if you have projects or improvements you would be willing to share with the group. Please contact the Blood Matters team via email at: Bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au or give us a call on 03 9694 0102. Further information will be made available closer to the date.

Blood Matters journal club

The next Blood Matters journal club meeting is being held on 16 February 2022. The Blood Matters team will present “Questioning the benefit of restrictive transfusion practice in older adults”

Further events will be communicated closer to the time.

Education

Virtual education sessions have enabled us to reach a larger and broader audience and will continue in 2022.

Upcoming virtual events for 2022:

- Five in 5 sessions, 5 topics over 5 days - attend one or all (March 21-25 and October 3-7)

With the hope that face to face meetings can again occur in 2022, with the EN study day planned for September 6.

Further information will be sent out closer to the dates.

Please contact Blood Matters Bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au if you would like further information or if we can help you to run your education event.

Changes to the Graduate Certificates in Transfusion Practice

The course will be delivered by the Transfusion, Policy, Education department of Lifeblood under the auspices of the Red Cross, who are a registered training organisation. Although this is a new course, delivered by TPE the high standards that have been set by Blood Matters and the University of Melbourne will continue. It is anticipated the new course will commence later this year.

The course content covers all aspects of blood management and transfusion, and governance within health services. It provides a framework from which to build knowledge and skills to help manage, monitor and improve blood management and transfusion and associated processes within your health service.

If you are interested in hearing about the new course when it becomes available, please contact Blood Matters to register your interest. Bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au

Blood Matters staff

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Available at <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/blood-matters-program>