

Proof of Concept Update – January 2013

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In a collaboration between the Blood Service and the NBA, the National Inventory Management Framework (NIMF) project aims to define optimal red cell inventory levels across the blood sector and implement a better process and guidelines for effective red cell inventory management.

To kick start the project, a 'proof of concept' (POC) was recently conducted with the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) to implement new red cell inventory target levels set by the Project Team and to closely monitor orders and deliveries to ensure these new levels supported the hospital's service requirements.

One of the key benefits realised was a significant reduction in inventory held by the hospital. This saw deliveries reduced to two daily, with optimal levels of inventory maintained after the completion of the POC. There was no increase in the number of urgent orders placed.

Feedback from the RBWH was positive, with the hospital continuing to use the revised inventory targets provided. It is expected that with the readjustment of inventory for certain red cell products the Blood Service will have a greater ability to respond to demand and wastage across the sector will be reduced.

The next step of the project is to pilot the methodology established in the proof of concept at additional approved health providers in 2013.

The NIMF project team sincerely thank Peter Russell (Supervising Scientist) and Sue Williams (Senior Scientist) from the RBWH, together with their experienced staff for their enthusiastic support in participating in the proof of concept.

