

NATIONAL INVENTORY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PROJECT

Project Update ~ June 2013

The National Inventory Management Framework (NIMF) project, led by the Blood Service in collaboration with the National Blood Authority, aims to define safe optimal red cell inventory levels for the blood sector and develop better processes and guidelines for effective red cell inventory management. This communication provides an update on the progress of a national pilot, which forms stage two of the NIMF project involving seven Health Providers. The pilot will further validate the methodology established in stage one (proof of concept) of the project.

Pilot Progress Update

- All seven proposed Health Providers have been formally invited to participate in the NIMF pilot and all have provided in principle agreement for inclusion in this stage of the project.
- Consultations have been held with all pilot sites which included more detailed discussions on the conduct of the pilot with each Health Provider. These consultations also included an overview of data requirements and support offered by the NIMF project team for the conduct of the pilot stage.
- Data collection, analysis and development of red cell inventory bands have been completed and discussed with Flinders Medical Centre, Royal Hobart Hospital and The Townsville Hospital. During July, inventory bands will be provided for discussion with both the Royal Prince Alfred and John Hunter Hospitals.
- The first pilot for the project commenced on 27 May with Flinders Medical Centre and continued over a five week period. Red cell inventory levels and delivery schedules were adjusted according to the proposed framework modelling. The pilot progressed smoothly throughout the period and concluded on 30 June. A debrief session will be held with the senior laboratory management in coming weeks. The project team thank Flinders Medical Centre for their participation in the pilot and their support during this time.
- The second pilot at the Royal Hobart Hospital commenced on 17 June, following initial discussions on data analysis and inventory bands on 4 June. Framework modelling indicated a reduction of inventory levels for the Royal Hobart Hospital. The early stages of this pilot are progressing smoothly.
- The Townsville Hospital will commence the pilot on 8 July and has been preceded by data analysis and inventory band discussions on 17 June. Red cell inventory levels proposed for the pilot also indicate a reduction over pre-existing maximum inventory levels.
- The NIMF project team continue to work with the remaining four pilot sites to support data collection with a view to progressing safety stock calculations for discussion with each respective site.

