Comparative Observational Audit of Transfusion Bedside Checking Procedures

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Aim
To assess compliance with Australian New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion (ANZSBT) Guidelines for the Administration of Blood Products and Hospital Transfusion Medicine Protocols, on procedures for bedside checking and administration of blood components at two hospitals specialising in Women’s and Children’s healthcare.

Method
An observational audit was performed of clinical staff undertaking the bedside checking procedure and administration of blood components at the two sites. The audit included a sample of patients who received a blood component between May 2013 and February 2014. Practices observed included: checking validity of patient consent, prescription, visual check of blood component, verification of positive patient identification with patient/parent and blood component label, time to start of infusion, and correct administration procedures. The presence of appropriate documentation including date and time, checking signatures and observations was also included. The observed practices were assessed against the ANZSBT Guidelines for the Administration of Blood Products and Hospital Transfusion Medicine Protocols.

Results
A total number of 63 transfusion episodes were audited. The results showed excellent compliance with validity of prescription, documentation and administration procedures. However the audit highlighted some key areas where expected practice was not observed. These included checking of consent, and performance of verbal positive patient identification. Although all audited staff cross checked the blood component and identification band with the prescription, they did not always verbally confirm the name and date of birth with the patient/parent as mandated by the ANZSBT Guidelines for the Administration of Blood Products and organisational protocols (see table).

Conclusion
This observational audit demonstrates that transfusion practices at both sites were consistent with the ANZSBT Guidelines for the Administration of Blood Products and organisation protocols. Areas identified for improvement include verbal positive patient identification and checking the documentation of consent prior to administration.

Specific interventions to improved practice have now been implemented, including feedback of audit results and education focused on positive patient identification. A repeat audit is in process to monitor compliance and promote best practice.

References
1. Australian and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion (ANZSBT) and Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA) Guidelines for the Administration of Blood Products, 3rd Edition 2014.

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