

Newswire No. 26

August 2009

- 2008 Inventory Practice Survey
- 2009 Open Meeting Feedback
- Data Transparency Update
- ABO RhD Distribution in Hospital Populations
- Hospital Inventory Practice

2008 Inventory Practice Survey

The BSMS Inventory Practice Survey 2008 focussed on 3 specific areas . “Making the most of the BSMS” enquiring how users make use of the BSMS; “Changing Inventory Practise” which sought to discover if, and how, blood transfusion inventory policy had changed since 2001; and “Rating the service provided by the BSMS team” which requested information on users’ experience of BSMS service.

203 completed questionnaires were received, representing the views of 212 private and NHS hospital blood transfusion laboratories; around 70% of scheme participating hospitals. Thank you to all those hospitals that completed a survey.

The results of the survey are encouraging, identifying improvements that have been made in hospital inventory management since 2001. These include:-

- A reduction in stock levels, particularly O Negative red cells
- An increase in laboratory staff awareness of inventory management
- Introduction of an inventory of AB positive red cells



The survey also identified a change in the way the BSMS data is used by hospitals; in 2008 the majority of respondents were using the data for reviewing wastage (65%) whereas in 2002 only 1% of respondents used the data for wastage review.

A report will be sent to each BSMS participant during August 2009 and is available on the BSMS website, <http://www.bloodstocks.co.uk/reports/inventorypracticesurveys/>

2009 Open Meeting Feedback

145 delegates from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, attended the 2009 Open Meeting held in Birmingham on May 6th, 2009. 103 of the delegates were hospital representatives and the blood services were represented by 42 delegates. The meeting provided an overview of supply chains, an insight into the demand planning process and how hospitals could contribute to effective planning.

The workshops identified some key common points:

Focus on stock

- Regular review of optimum inventory levels is essential, tools provided by BSMS can help.
- Having an SOP in place defining minimal/optimum stock and associated reorder levels and quantities.
- Electronic Issue may allow less inventory to be held - general agreement that Electronic Issue had led to a reduction in stock levels.

Data Transparency

- Data transparency needs careful interpretation due to different hospital practises.
- Participants would like to see real time stock levels in blood services.
- Electronic reporting is the way forward for BSMS reports/communications.

The feedback is available on the BSMS website

<http://www.bloodstocks.co.uk/openmeetings/2009/WorkshopFeedback/>

Data Transparency Update



A further development under phase 1 of the data transparency project will be the provision of de-anonymised data for open discussion at Regional Transfusion Committees (RTC) in England and North Wales. By facilitating open discussion it is envisaged that "best practise" in stock management will be promoted. As data is visible to participants within an RTC region the members of the RTC can already access each others data. The BSMS Steering Group have agreed that the scheme will provide a standardised report to Chairs of the RTCs and participants on a quarterly basis.

The report will contain:

- > Issue data for red cells and platelets by individual hospital
- > Wastage data for red cells and platelets by individual hospital
- > Comparative data for red cells and platelets
- > ABO RhD distribution data

The first report will be available during late August 2009 and will report on quarter 1 (April to June) 2009. The BSMS team will distribute the report to Transfusion Laboratory Managers and Transfusion Practitioners prior to distributing to the Chairs of the RTCs.

Hospitals served by the Welsh Blood Service have discussed data transparency at the BSMS regional road shows during 2008 and have agreed transparency between themselves and the Welsh Blood Service Better Blood Transfusion Team. The BSMS will take this forward during 2009/10.

Northern Ireland have transparency between hospital and blood service participants.

We will keep you updated on progress with data transparency via newswire and the website.

ABO RhD Distribution Survey

The ABO RhD distribution survey was conducted by the BSMS in late 2008. Hospitals were asked to provide numbers of ABO and RhD types performed during a 1 year period from 1st October 2007 to 30th September 2008. 112 surveys were returned providing in excess of 1.4 million blood types.

The aim of the survey was to uncover the current distribution of blood groups across hospital populations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

A summary report has been produced showing the mean ABO RhD distributions nationally and by region. This report is now available on the BSMS website <http://www.bloodstocks.co.uk/pdf/ExecutiveSummary1.pdf> and will be distributed to hospitals with the August quarterly report.



Hospital Inventory Practice

The BSMS have had a paper published in *Transfusion Medicine*, the reference is below

Perera, G., Hyam, C., Taylor, C., Chapman, J., (2009) Hospital Blood Inventory Practice: the factors affecting stock level and wastage. *Transfusion Medicine*, **19**, 99-104.

The study showed that different stock management practices in hospitals are associated with significant differences in stock levels and wastage of blood. The article identifies examples of best practice.

Best practice guidelines in the area of inventory practice do not currently exist and we hope that this work will form the basis for national guidelines in blood inventory management.