

Inventory Practice Survey 2009

Platelets Headline summary

Response

- The survey was sent to 294 hospitals in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- 230 hospitals completed the survey corresponding to a 78% response rate.
- The response was over 70% for each of the 5 platelet usage categories (very high to very low).

Ordering from the Blood Services

- 89% of hospitals have a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for ordering platelets from the blood service compared to 73% in 2003.
- 20 hospitals do not have an SOP, of which 45% come from the very high/high platelet usage categories. 10/20 have no plans to introduce an SOP.
- The number of hospitals ordering for specific patients rather than block ordering has not changed significantly since 2003.

Improvements in availability of a platelet ordering standard operating procedure have been driven by the implementation of the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005.

Stock and Storage

- The number of hospitals routinely holding a stock of platelets has increased from 10% in 2003 to 23% in 2009.
- The hospitals that do hold stock come primarily from very high and high platelet usage hospitals. This is similar to 2003.
- The most widely stocked blood group is A Positive compared to O Positive in 2003.
- 10/163 hospitals that currently do not stock platelets are considering holding stock in the future.
- 60% of these hospitals expressed an interest in holding stocks of blood group A Negative.
- 87% of hospitals indicated that their platelet storage facilities meet the UKBTS guidelines compared with 79% in 2003.

Hospitals should consider the improvement in availability, potential increase in wastage and transport pressures when considering holding a stock of platelets. Flexibility and collaboration between the hospital laboratory and blood service is essential when ordering stock platelets.

Training

- The number of hospitals providing training to junior medical staff on the indications for the use of platelets has increased from 27% in 2003 to 44% in 2009.
- Responsibility for training is now primarily taken by the transfusion practitioner as opposed to the haematologist in 2003.
- 5% of hospitals provide training through e-learning. This option was not mentioned in 2003.

Training on indications for use is provided to junior doctors but not by all hospitals. Delivering training and education about the appropriate use of platelets to