

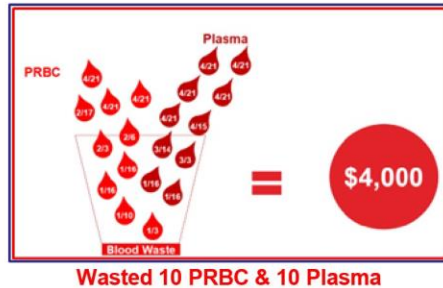
Every Drop Counts: Reducing Blood Waste Through Multidisciplinary Collaboration

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Background & Assessment

- Level 1 Trauma Center in New York equipped with 21 Operating Rooms and a 535- bed capacity. Providing comprehensive surgical and trauma services requiring consistent and reliable blood supply.
- Quarterly blood drive program to help with blood supply shortage issue. Further highlighting the need to increase efforts to reduce blood product waste.
- Between January- April 2025, the OR experienced emerging blood product waste -20 blood products amounting to \$4k.



- A3 methodology was utilized to conduct an in-depth analysis of the blood waste issues and implement actionable and sustainable strategies to resolve the problem

Description of Team

- A multidisciplinary team was formed to review blood management process:
 - ✓ Perioperative Leaders
 - ✓ Frontline OR staff
 - ✓ Anesthesia (anes) & Surgical Team
 - ✓ Blood Bank (BB) Team

A3 Process



Problem Statement:

- Increase in blood waste in the Operating Room

Current State:

- No clear process for blood requisition
- Staff not aware how to handle blood in the OR
- Lack of communication on blood usage

Analysis of the Problem:

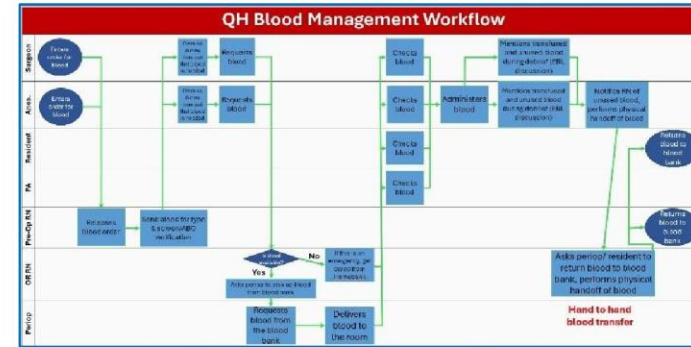
- Staff knowledge, skills and abilities deficit
- Lack standard of practice

Goal

- Reduce blood waste by 50% in 6 months
- 100% staff compliance in OR blood management

Plan/Action Items:

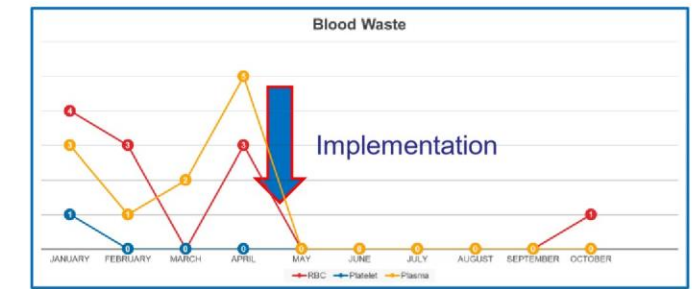
- Collaborate across discipline to optimize workflow
- Create a clear process map on blood handling
- Conduct OR team in-service with BB team
- Provide quick-reference using laminated guide
- Implement regular updates/feedback between BB, nursing & anes
- Review data and share outcome



Blood Management Process Map

Outcomes

- Improved communication:** Blood products added in Time out, Debrief and RN to RN/anesthesia hand-off
- Enhanced multidisciplinary collaboration:** Strengthen teamwork across clinical disciplines
- Positive staff feedback:** Reports on increased satisfaction in efforts to save blood
- Cost saving:** Reduced expense with blood waste
- Exceed performance target:** Surpassed goal on blood waste
 - 89% improvement on blood waste
 - 100% compliance on blood management process



Blood Waste Data

Nursing Implication

- Clarifying everyone's role in blood management builds respect, accountability and collaboration
- Focusing on system issues and engaging multidisciplinary frontline teams in waste reduction strategies reduces blood waste
- Monthly reviews of quality metrics identifies improvement areas.

References available upon request
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