

Blood Matters report for blood management (or equivalent) committee

February 2024

OFFICIAL

The Blood Matters Program is a Victorian State Government program run in collaboration with the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood (formerly Blood Service).

Strategic Plan 2023–24

Goal:

Blood Matters goal is to use a collaborative approach to support and promote best practices in quality care and clinical safety in blood management. We aim for sustainable, responsible, safe, and appropriate use of blood and blood products for improved patient outcomes in Victoria.

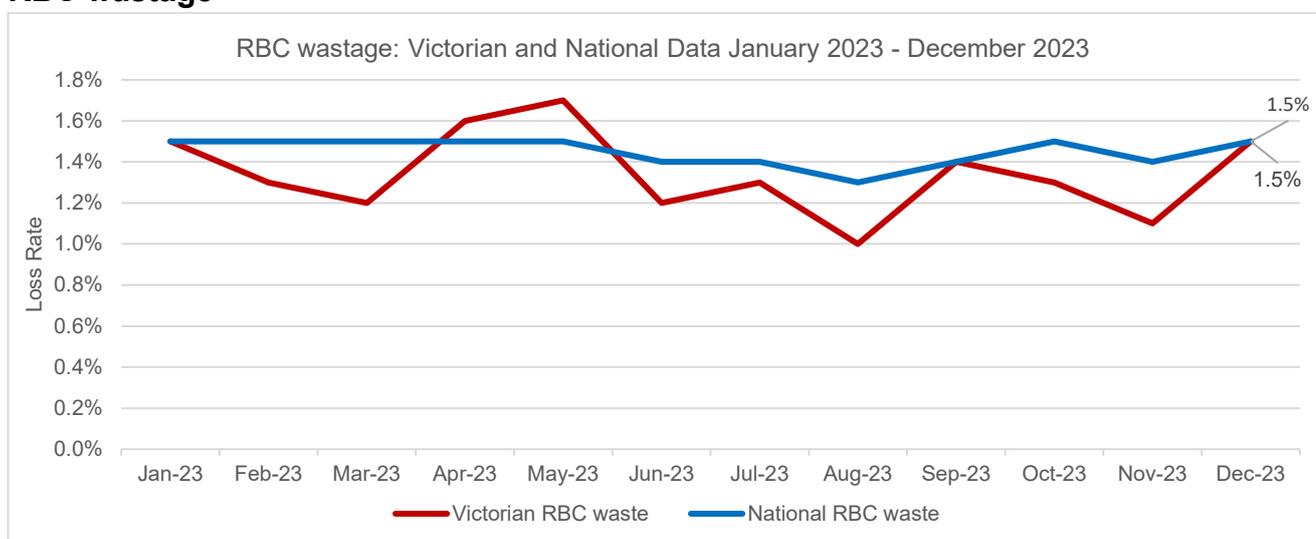
Objectives:

Use innovative and diverse approaches to:

- promote and support the development of strategies that optimise appropriate use of blood, blood products, or alternatives, and person-centred care through national and local governance frameworks and standards
- foster and strengthen partnerships and stakeholder relationships
- analyse data and disseminate findings across the sector to raise awareness, influence practice, promote efficiencies and equity of care, and provide value
- provide and promote expert knowledge sharing and collaboration across the sector, including specific initiatives, tools and specialised advice.

Blood stewardship

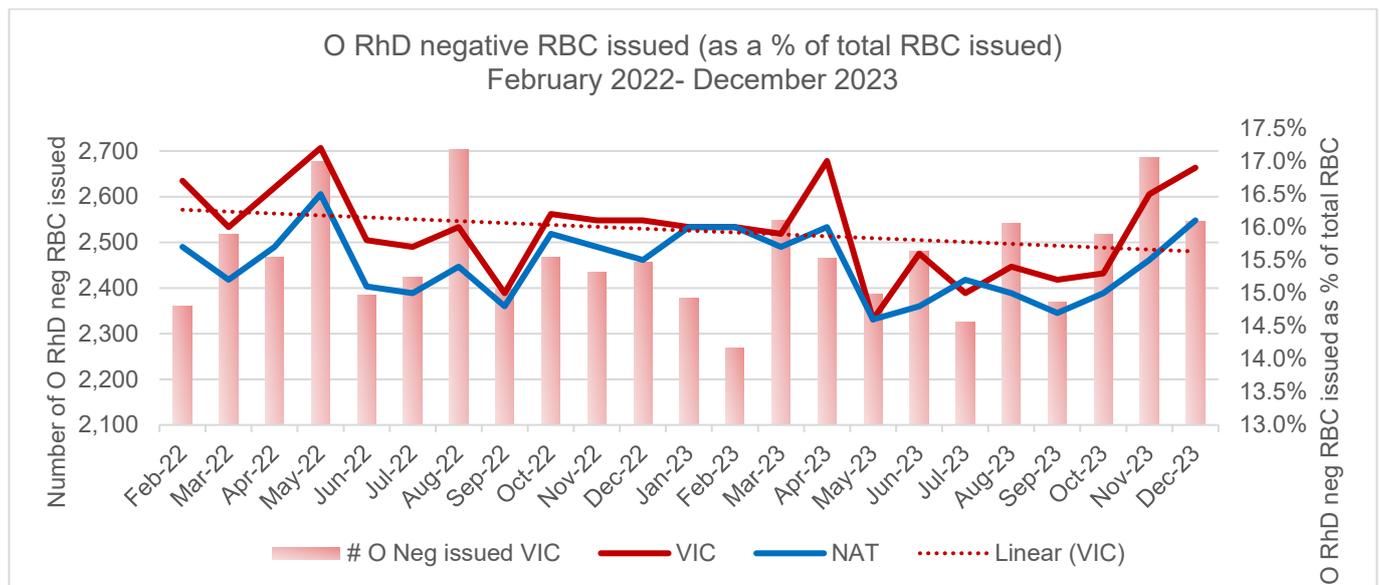
RBC wastage



RBC wastage rates continue to be consistently at or below national average. We are currently in what has traditionally been the peak period for RBC wastage, at the end of the festive period. Ongoing diligence and review of inventory is essential to continue to minimise wastage rates.

O RhD negative RBC issue rates

The number of O RhD negative RBC issued as a proportion of all RBC issued in Victoria has recently increased. While we understand usage of emergency use RBC has increased due to the number and acuity of emergency transfusions in the previous month, we ask that health services regularly review adherence to emergency use policy and appropriateness of their use. An audit template can be downloaded from the [Blood Matters webpage](#).



Transfer of patients with blood components

There is ongoing work with Ambulance Victoria to minimise wastage and increase traceability of blood components which accompany patients on transfer between health services.

If blood is requested by a clinician for transfer with a patient, please ensure it is **packed and labelled appropriately** by the transfusion laboratory or other trained members of staff (using shipper label template).

If blood is received at a health service with a patient transfer, please do not open the shipper, contact your transfusion service for further instructions. If a shipper is opened at any stage prior to receipt into the transfusion laboratory, the blood will likely need to be discarded due to appropriate storage not being guaranteed.

Any queries regarding traceability (for example, a unit of blood missing from a shipper, but not signed off as having been transfused) can be forwarded to Ambulance Victoria at patientreview@ambulance.vic.gov.au. Please also copy rfrench@redcrossblood.org.au in the email and she can assist with follow-up if necessary.

All blood components requested by Ambulance Victoria from regional health services should be packed with the Ambulance Victoria shipper label template to minimise wastage and increase traceability. This label can be downloaded from the [Blood Matters webpage](#).

Auditing:

Appropriate use of fresh frozen plasma (FFP) audit 2023

This was the first audit Blood Matters undertook with Australian Red Cross Lifeblood (Lifeblood) and the National Blood Transfusion Committee. The audit was undertaken using the Lifeblood Audit tool. The aim of the audit was to assess appropriate use of FFP in accordance with the National Blood Authority Patient Blood Management Guidelines and indications for use published at [Lifeblood](#).

Blood Matters invited health services from all associated jurisdictions to participate in the audit. Blood Matters associated health services submitted 713 (76 per cent) audits from 38 health services. Another 17 health services provide information that they had no FFP transfusions during the audit period (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023).

The report is being finalised and will be available in the coming months.

The Lifeblood Audit tool remains available for health services to use for their own auditing purposes.

2024 Blood Matters audit

The 2024 audit will be 'The use of group O RhD negative RBC according to guidelines.'

This audit will compare data collected in the Blood Matters 2017 audit (report published in 2018), for health services to assess compliance or gaps in practice and help identify any ongoing challenges.

The 2018 audit reported that 36 per cent of all O RhD negative RBCs were transfused to recipients outside the Guidelines for the use of group O RhD negative RBC (Blood Service [now Lifeblood] and NBTC 2008). The most common reason (n=337, 17 per cent) for transfusing group O RhD negative RBCs to non-identical recipients was to prevent expiry.

Health services will be required to enter the fate of ALL O RhD negative RBCs received into inventory during **March 2024**. The audit will be open for data entry from **1 May – 14 June 2024**.

Further information will follow.

Serious transfusion incident reporting (STIR) system

STIR continues to receive reports of both clinical and procedural events from both public and private health services. These reports form the basis of our annual report, provide information for, education and conferences and provide data for the National Blood Authority Haemovigilance reports.

The 2021-22 annual report is available on the Blood Matters webpage. [Serious Transfusion Incident Reporting system \(STIR\) | health.vic.gov.au](#)

For reporting criteria for STIR please go to [STIR guide](#)

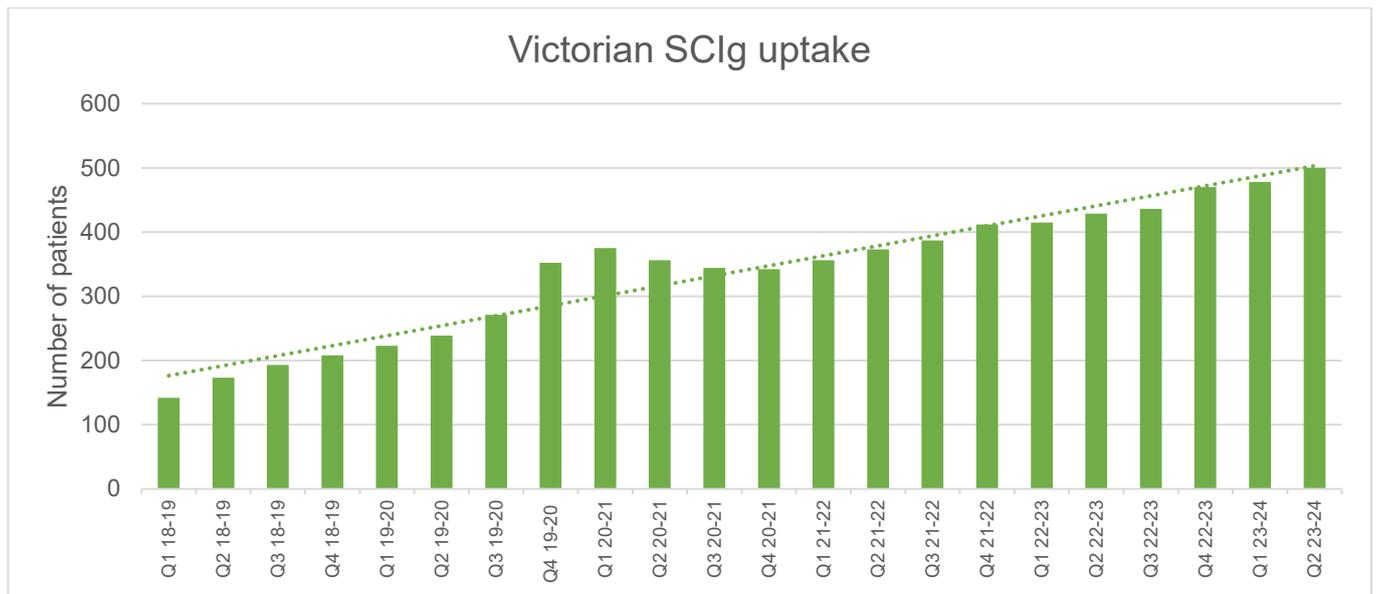
For any health service in Victoria, Tasmania, Northern Territory or Australian Capital Territory not currently reporting to STIR, please contact Blood Matters at: Bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au if you wish to participate.

Blood Matters Project Nurse – subcutaneous immunoglobulin (SCIg) implementation project

SCIg implementation tools, resources, and health service SCIg contacts are available at: [Subcutaneous Immunoglobulin \(SCIg\) access program \(health.vic.gov.au\)](#)

SCIg patient numbers

The number of patients receiving treatment with SCIg continues to increase.



Currently in Victoria (Q2 2023-2024) there are:

- 21 sites with active programs
- 500 Victorian patients receiving treatment with SCIg
- 2810 Victorian patients eligible for treatment with SCIg by medical diagnosis

SCIg Forums

The dates for the SCIg forums for 2024 are:

- 28 February 2024
- 5 June 2024
- 13 November 2024

The February forum will feature a SCIg program coordinator panel Q&A session, exploring questions about program setup and processes. There will also be the regular SCIg updates and an opportunity for discussions with other colleagues.

National Blood Authority (NBA) SCIg Report

The NBA engaged Health Consult to conduct a SCIg review and develop and evaluate options to achieve optimal uptake of SCIg. The final report Evaluate and Develop Options to Improve Access to Subcutaneous Immunoglobulin (SCIg) can be accessed [here](#) and is also available on the NBA website.

Webpage update

The SCIg program, tools and resources webpage has been updated to reflect the transition from Evogam® to Hizentra® AU and also the introduction of another SCIg product Xembify® (imported product).

If you would like further information on SCIg or assistance with commencing or expanding a SCIg program, please contact Anne Graham, Blood Matters Project Nurse, via email at: angraham@redcrossblood.org.au

Education

Education continues to be a focus of our work, with previous events well received by participants. Most events are virtual with a small number being held in person.

Upcoming events for 2024 (January – June)

Education event	Date
Enrolled Nurse face-to-face	March 5
Webex education session: RhD Immunoglobulin (Ig) donor program	March 12
General Five in five sessions	March 18-22
Midwives Five in five sessions	May 13-17
Graduate nurse study day	April 16
Transfusion Nurse / Trainer / Safety officer Forum	April 23, June 12

Further information will be sent out closer to the dates.

Please contact the Blood Matters team (Bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au) if you would like us to participate in your education program.

Blood Matters forums

Blood Matters continues to support blood management/transfusion nurses/trainers and quality officers with the opportunity to get together and discuss current issues that affect all. These sessions are being conducted second monthly as a virtual meeting. Content includes Blood Matters activity updates, changes in the blood sector, network questions discussions, education, and journal club presentations as appropriate. An in-person forum is planned for later in the year. Invitations and additional information will be sent out prior to each meeting.

Mentor program

This year Blood Matters introduced a mentor program. We had six very experienced blood management/transfusion nurses volunteer to mentor four blood management/transfusion professionals who are new to the role in our pilot mentor program, The program kicked off in late January.

Anyone wishing to be involved should contact the Blood Matters Team: Bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au

CSL Behring prothrombin complex concentrate supply change update

- Prothrombinex-VF will no longer be available from June 2024
- Beriplex P/N will be introduced temporarily from June 2024
- Beriplex AU will replace Beriplex P/N in late 2024/early 2025

The introduction of Beriplex P/N is an unforeseen necessity. Prothrombinex-VF is no longer being manufactured in Australia and the current stocks will run out in June 2024, however supply of Beriplex AU, which will ultimately be the prothrombin complex concentrate used in Australia will not be available until after the Prothrombinex-VF stocks run out. As an interim measure Beriplex P/N (imported product) will be available from June 2024 until the release of Beriplex AU.

Information to assist health services with the two-step transition has been requested from CSL Behring.

Conference

International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) 2024 - Blood Matters have submitted an abstract "Have consent practices for blood transfusion changed in the last 10 years?"

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ISSN 2981-8710 - Online (pdf/word)

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

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Available at <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/blood-matters-program>