

Blood Matters report for blood management (or equivalent) committee

February 2025

OFFICIAL

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

Strategic Plan 2024-25

Goal:

Blood Matters, guided by the values, vision, and priorities of the Victorian Department of Health, fosters collaboration to enhance best practices in managing blood and blood products. This includes sustainable, responsible, safe, and appropriate use of blood, aimed at improving patient outcomes in Victoria.

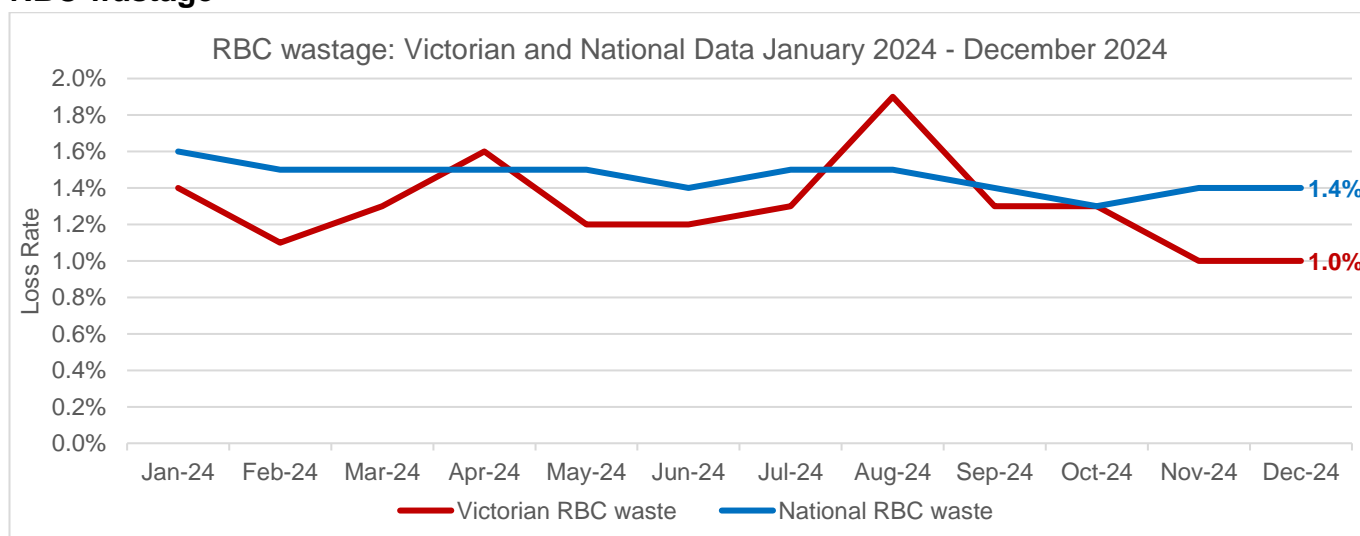
Strategic direction:

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



Victorian RBC wastage rates remain consistently below national average. Increases in wastage rates are directly attributable to an increase in storage-related discards. Ongoing blood fridge monitoring and testing, along with education regarding storage requirements of blood components (including the 30-minute/4-hour rule) reduces the likelihood of such wastage occurring.

Your continuous dedication vigilance and dedication in blood stewardship is commendable.

2024-25 Festive campaign

The 2024-25 'STOP the waste' festive campaign has begun strongly, with RBC wastage rates for November and December 2024 well below average at 1.0%.

As the festive campaign continues through to February, your ongoing dedication to monitoring inventory and minimising RBC waste is much appreciated.

Auditing

The use of group O RhD negative RBC according to guidelines audit 2024

With demand for group O RhD negative red blood cells (RBC) significantly higher than the proportion of the population who are O RhD negative, the 2024 audit again focused on the indications for the use of O RhD negative red blood cells. Data will be compared to the Blood Matters 2017 audit results (report published in 2018). The results will help health services assess compliance with recommended use and identify any gaps in practice or ongoing challenges.

Data analysis and the report are being finalised. The full report will be available on the [Blood Matters Program webpage](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/blood-matters-program) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/blood-matters-program>> when released.

Audit 2025

The Serious Transfusion Incident Reporting (STIR) system received an increase in notifications for wrong blood in tube (WBIT) and incorrect blood component transfused (IBCT) in FY 2024. Fortunately, ABO incompatible transfusions, a form of IBCT with the potential for significant morbidity and mortality, are reported infrequently; however, STIR continues to receive reports of components administered to a patient other than the intended patient. This indicates there is improvement to be made in the areas of patient identification and the pretransfusion check.

The 2025 audit is: Positive patient identification and the pre-transfusion checking procedure. This will be conducted in two parts:

- Part 1: Policy survey – to determine if health services have a policy or policy statement that includes all the elements required for double independent checking of the patient and the component.
- Part 2: An observational audit of up to 20 blood component transfusions to determine if the practice undertaken by clinical staff is consistent with the requirements for a double independent check of the patient and component.

The Blood Matters team will be providing detailed instructions with the audit at the Transfusion Practitioner virtual forum on February 18, 2025.

Serious transfusion incident reporting (STIR) system

We thank both public and private health services for continuing to report to the STIR system. 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 2023-24 annual report is being written. Previous years reports with case studies and recommendations can be found at [Serious Transfusion Incident Reporting system \(STIR\) | health.vic.gov.au](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/serious-transfusion-incident-reporting-system-stir) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/serious-transfusion-incident-reporting-system-stir>>.

STIR also provides bulletins on recurring themes or serious issues seen in the investigations sent to STIR. These can also be found at the above link. The latest STIR Bulletin, released in December 2024, discusses the use of RhD immunoglobulin in situations where RhD incompatible blood is administered.

STIR is currently updating forms and guidance to ensure that information provided assists reviewers in their validation of events and that we can provide data to the National Blood Authority Haemovigilance report, compliant with the Australian Haemovigilance Minimum Data Set, updated October 2024.

For reporting criteria for STIR please go to the updated [STIR guide](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/publications/blood-matters-serious-transfusion-incident-reporting-guide) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/publications/blood-matters-serious-transfusion-incident-reporting-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.

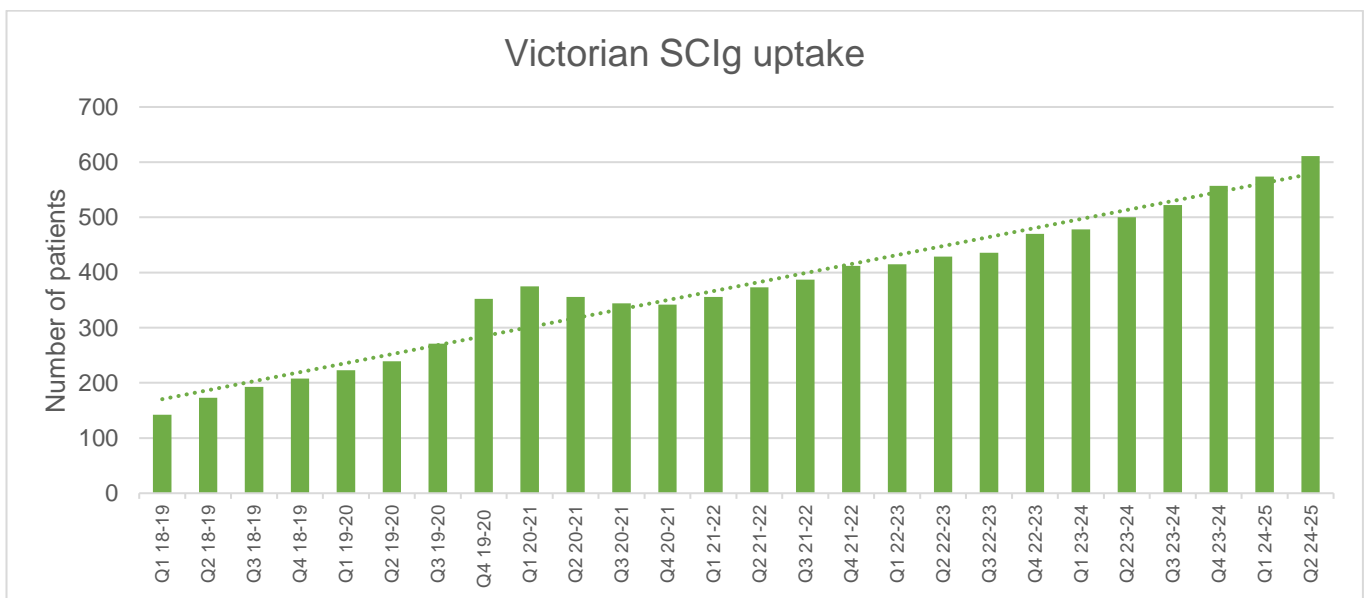
Subcutaneous immunoglobulin (SCIg) access program

SCIg patient numbers

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

Currently in Victoria (Q2 2024-2025) there are:

- 20 sites with active programs
- 611 Victorian patients receiving treatment with SCIg (19.1% of eligible patients)
- 3197 Victorian patients eligible for treatment with SCIg by medical diagnosis.



SCIg Forums

The dates for the 2025 SCIg forums are:

- Tuesday 11 March 2025
- Tuesday 8 July 2025
- Tuesday 11 November 2025

The March forum will feature a presentation titled “Routine screening for anti-IgA antibodies prior to IgRT – Aye or nay? There will also be the regular SCIg updates and an opportunity for discussion with other colleagues.

SCIg funding

The Tier 2 class for SCIg services, 10.22 Subcutaneous immunoglobulin (SCIg) infusion therapy – home delivered, is a new class introduced by The Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) to uniquely capture home based SCIg infusion therapy. Current SCIg funding will remain unchanged until mandatory reporting to support the new codes is introduced in July 2025. Further information is available at [Health data standards and systems communications | health.vic.gov.au](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/data-reporting/health-data-standards-and-systems-communication) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/data-reporting/health-data-standards-and-systems-communication>.

SCIg resources

SCIg implementation tools, resources, and health service SCIg contacts are available at: [Subcutaneous immunoglobulin \(SCIg\) access program | health.vic.gov.au](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/subcutaneous-immunoglobulin-scig-access-program) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/subcutaneous-immunoglobulin-scig-access-program> If you would like further information on SCIg or assistance with commencing or expanding a SCIg program, please contact Anne Graham, Blood Matters Nurse Consultant (SCIg), 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 2025 (February-June)

Education event	Date
Transfusion Practitioner Forum	February 18 (virtual) April 8 (virtual) June 10 (virtual)
Scientist Forum	March 19 (virtual)
Blood bites: 3 sessions of 90 minutes each over 3 days	March 24-26 (virtual)
SCIg Forum	March 11 (virtual)

Further information will be sent 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 Transfusion Practitioners with the opportunity to get together and discuss current issues that affect us all. These sessions are conducted second monthly as a virtual meeting (dates above). Content includes Blood Matters activity updates, changes in the blood sector, network questions and discussions, and education.

An annual in-person forum is scheduled for October 2025. Invitations and additional information will be sent out prior to each meeting.

The annual evaluation suggests that the current format of second monthly virtual meeting and an annual in-person meeting meets the needs of this group.

CSL Behring prothrombin complex concentrate supply change update

- Prothrombinex-VF is no longer available to order
- Beriplex P/N has been introduced temporarily from mid-2024
- Beriplex AU will replace Beriplex P/N in early 2025.

The introduction of Beriplex P/N (imported product) was an unforeseen necessity due to early run out of stock of Prothrombinex-VF. Beriplex AU (Australian product) is anticipated to be available for ordering from March 2025.

The [updated recommendations for warfarin reversal](https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2025/222/1/updated-recommendations-warfarin-reversal-setting-four-factor-prothrombin) <<https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2025/222/1/updated-recommendations-warfarin-reversal-setting-four-factor-prothrombin>> in the setting of four-factor prothrombin complex concentrate has been released and is available in the Medical Journal of Australia .

Conferences

International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) regional congress for 2025 is in Milan May 31- June 4.

The Blood conference and regional ISBT meeting will be held in Perth, 26-29 October 2025.

We encourage anyone with an interest in blood management and transfusion practice to attend these conferences.

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Available at [Blood Matters program](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/blood-matters-program) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/blood-matters-program>