

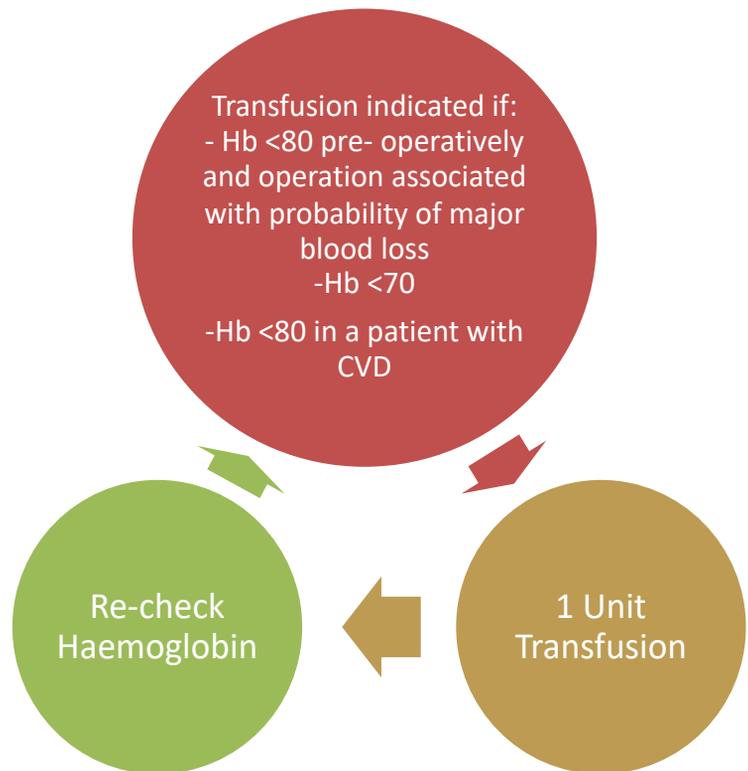
Transfuse and Check

What we did and why

We completed a full cycle audit project looking at blood transfusion practises in hip fracture patients within our trust. Every day, 4000 UK hospital beds are occupied by patients with hip fractures. Severe anaemia is a common post-operative complication in these, often frail, patients and many require blood transfusion.

Objectives

- Implement the 3 Transfusion standards covering the threshold, target and dose of transfusion.
- Implement the four quality standards relating to 'one unit transfusions' and the need to check the patient's haemoglobin pre and post treatment.
- Introduce our strategy of "Transfusion and check".
- Audit the outcomes of the Transfusion and check strategy.



“Don't give two without review”

Outcomes and Impact

We initially carried out a retrospective cohort study. Transfusion practices in our cohort were mostly **non-compliant** with NICE Guidance. The audit outcomes were discussed at the orthopaedic & critical care audit meeting. There was wide support and agreement to introduce a strategy of “*transfuse and check*”. We developed a programme to deliver transfusion teaching for doctors & nurses. The new changes were highlighted in our Hospital Newsletter “Bloody Matters”. Implementation of “*Transfuse and Check*” protocol was endorsed by Hospital Transfusion Committee. We decided that it might help in delivering the new strategy if we introduced a point-of-care Haemoglobin testing (Haemocue) device to our trauma ward. Following implementation we re-audited practice. There was a significant improvement in compliance of peri-operative transfusion practices according to NICE guidelines on re-audit.

- **61% fewer red blood cell units transfused when compared to initial cycle.**
- **30.4% improvement in post-transfusion Hb targets**
- **40.4% increase in Single unit transfusion and check Hb**

Since introduction, our trust wide “Transfuse and Check” protocol has reduced liberal transfusion of post-operative fractured neck of femur patients.

As a result we have achieved reduced RBC transfusion cost and reduced number of units transfused per patient