Informing patients about blood transfusion: audit and quality improvement project

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Background

- 1.7m red blood cell transfusions are issued per year in the UK [1]
- Blood transfusion is associated with a significant risk of complications [1, 2]
- The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) published guidelines in November 2015 which include the importance of informing patients about blood transfusion [2, 3]
- The purpose of this audit was to determine if patients are provided with appropriate information about blood transfusion as recommended by NICE

Methods

- 3-stage quality improvement project carried out using PDSA framework[4]
  - Data from patient notes and interviews with adult patients receiving red cell transfusion
  - Ambulatory, medical and surgical wards

Stage 1 (Audit 1)	Stage 2 (Audit 2)	Stage 3 (Audit 3)
Baseline data collection	Following QI intervention 1	Following QI intervention 2
46 patients	24 patients	12 patients
Medical, surgical, ambulatory assessment unit	Medical, surgical, ambulatory assessment unit	Ambulatory assessment unit
Jan – Feb 2016	March – July 2016	July 2016

QI intervention 1: Transfusion information pack

Quality Improvement Intervention 1: transfusion consent from + NHSBT transfusion information leaflet + group and save forms bundled together and available as 'transfusion information packs' on ward

QI intervention 2: QI 1 + Staff information on ambulatory unit

Quality Improvement Intervention 2: blood transfusion information packs as in QI intervention 1, combined with staff information sessions and posters on ambulatory assessment unit

References

1. The Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) scheme – Annual Report 2014. http://www.shotuk.org/shot-reports/
2. NICE Guidance: Blood Transfusion. Published online November 2015. https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng24
3. S Padhi et al. Blood transfusion: summary of NICE guidelines. BMJ. 351:8034.
4. W. Edwards Deming, The New Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, 1993.

Audit Standards

- The data obtained were audited against the following recommendations from NICE (ng24; articles 1.8.1, 1.8.2) [2]
  - 1.8.1 Provide verbal and written information to patients who may have or who have had a transfusion, and their family members or carers (as appropriate), explaining:
    - the reason for the transfusion
    - the risks and benefits
    - the transfusion process
    - any transfusion needs specific to them
    - any alternatives that are available, and how they might reduce their need for a transfusion
    - that they are no longer eligible to donate blood
    - that they are encouraged to ask questions.
  - 1.8.2 Document discussions in the patient's notes.

Results

Audit of patient notes

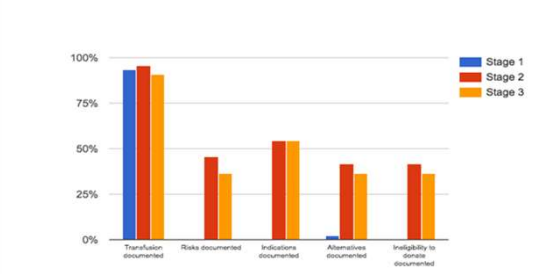

Figure 1. Percentage of patient notes documenting discussion with patients.

Audit of patient interviews

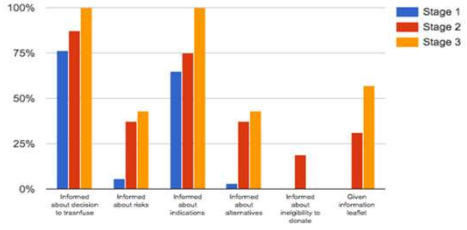

Figure 2. Percentage of patients reporting that they had received information about their blood transfusion

Discussion

- Following QI intervention:
  - Successful
  - Sustainable
  - Improved adherence to NICE guidance
- Next steps:
  - Implement on larger scale in the trust
  - Patient information leaflet for consent to transfusion
  - Electronic form for paperless