

Blood Matters on the Bench and Beyond

Issue 9 – February 2022

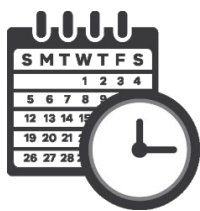
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Welcome to the Blood Matters newsletter for Scientists. It will be distributed throughout the year to share information that may be helpful to you, and to let you know of upcoming activities which may be of interest.

Blood Matters online events 2022

We have been thrilled with the level of interest and participation in Blood Matters online events since they began in 2020. These have become a regular fixture in our education calendar, continuing to support scientists and our multidisciplinary network of transfusion professionals.

Five in 5 blood management education series



21 – 25 March 2022

10.30 – 11.30am daily

Virtual education sessions via Webex

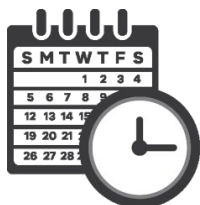
Each topic (day) requires individual registration. Links provided below.

Monday 21 st March	Safe transfusion practice	Register here for day 1
Tuesday 22 nd March	Blood grouping and compatibility testing	Register here for day 2
Wednesday 23 rd March	Adverse events	Register here for day 3
Thursday 24 th March	Patient blood management (PBM), iron deficiency anaemia (IDA) and iron infusions	Register here for day 4
Friday 25 th March	Massive Transfusion	Register here for day 5

Staff can register for as many sessions as they would like to attend. Sessions are primarily focussed at nursing staff, but may also be of interest to scientific staff.

Please note: No prior immunohaematology knowledge is required for the “Blood grouping and compatibility testing” session. If you currently work in blood bank, your existing knowledge will exceed the content covered in this session.

Save the date – scientist education session



12 May 2022

TBA

Virtual education session via Webex

Further information to be provided shortly, [contact Rae](#) if you would like to be added to the distribution list.



Blood Matters

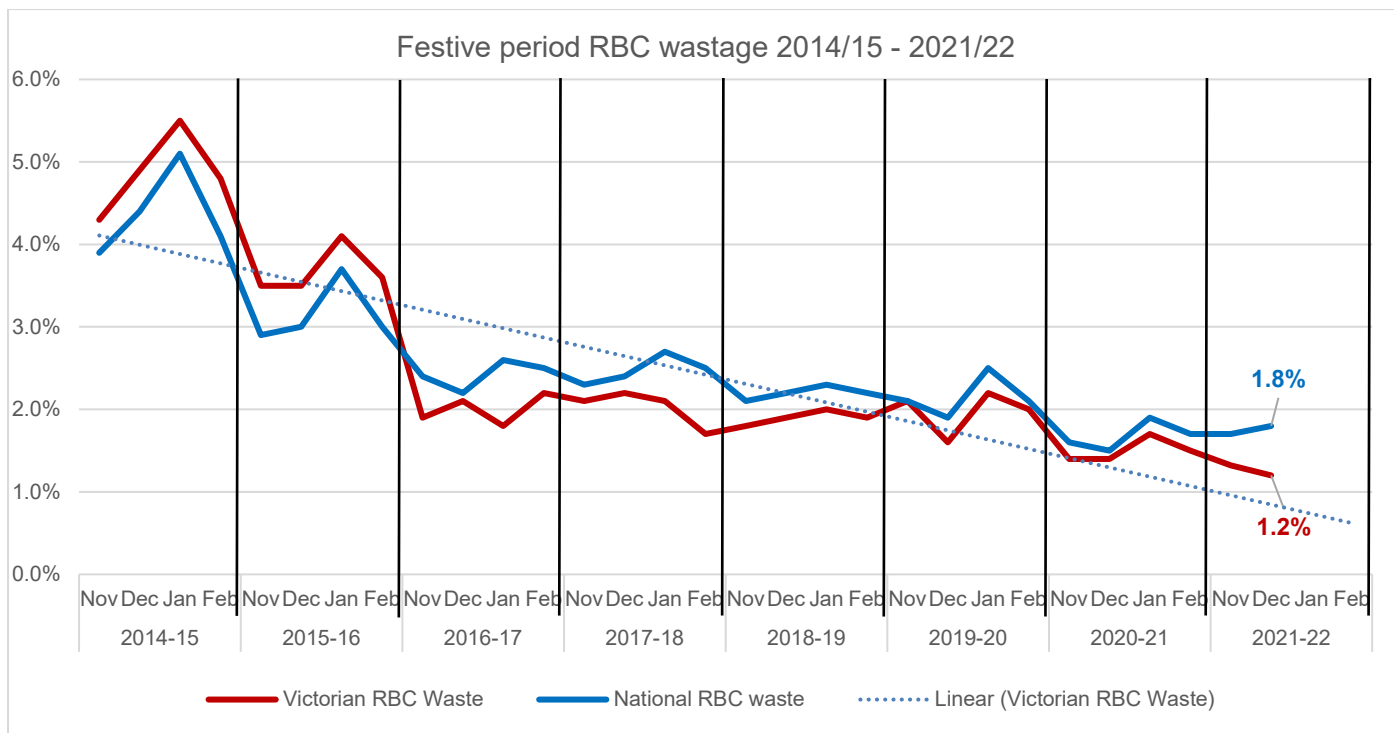
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Festive season wastage interim results

With the festive period drawing to a close, we would like to applaud your outstanding efforts once again in keeping blood component wastage to a minimum over this period.

Victorians can be very proud of the result of all your hard work and perseverance with regards to inventory management in such difficult circumstances.

Thank you for your part in maintaining sufficiency of the blood supply over this most challenging of periods.



Transition from gamma-irradiation to X-ray irradiation: 12 Jan 2022

Australian Red Cross Lifblood is now using an X-ray irradiator for the irradiation of blood components at Melbourne Processing Centre.

Lifblood performed an extensive evaluation that demonstrated that X-ray irradiation is comparable to gamma irradiation in its effects on blood component quality and ability to inactivate lymphocytes for the prevention of Transfusion-associated Graft-vs-Host Disease.

- The gamma irradiator will be maintained as a backup until decommissioning and disposal can be arranged.
- The Rad-Sure label will be a different colour, with a grey stripe to indicate X-ray irradiation.

1a.



1b.



1c.



1d.



1a. Rad-Sure label for X-ray irradiation showing that irradiation has NOT been performed

1b. Rad-Sure label for X-ray irradiation showing that irradiation has been performed

1c. Rad-Sure label for gamma irradiation showing that irradiation has NOT been performed

1d. Rad-Sure label for gamma irradiation showing that irradiation has been performed

ANZSBT Addendum: Transfusion management of patients treated with monoclonal antibody therapies

ANZSBT has published an addendum to ANZSBT Guidelines for Transfusion and Immunohaematology Laboratory Practice (revised 1st edition; January 2020).

Transfusion management of patients treated with monoclonal antibody therapies has been written to guide laboratories in provision of compatible blood for transfusion in patients treated with monoclonal antibody (MAb) therapies that interfere with immunohaematology testing.

<https://anzsbt.org.au/guidelines-standards/anzsbt-guidelines/>

BloodNet update December 2021

There was an update to BloodNet on 5th December 2021.

BloodNet users can now cancel orders when Lifeblood has cancelled an issue note. This then moves the order details to the cancelled orders list rather than remaining in the active orders list.

There are two new discard reasons:

1. Damaged – Possible Contamination

Used to record discarded blood and blood products due to being dispensed to COVID wards and potentially being contaminated. This allows facilities to report on potential COVID wastage data

2. Other – Stocktake adjustment

Allows facilities to discard products not found during a physical stocktake

Remember to use **correct BloodNet discard reason** this ensures consistency of reporting across transfusion laboratories, within Victoria and also nationally.

Please also **add comments** to BloodNet discards, particularly when discarding with “Other” reason.

COVID-19 infection control

With an increase in COVID-19 positive patients within Victorian Health Services, it is more important than ever to ensure measures are in place to reduce the risk of wasting blood components or products due to internal infection control measures.

The most important factor in reducing the risk of wastage is to ensure blood components and products are **issued from the transfusion laboratory only when they are ready for transfusion.**

Blood Matters COVID 19 Newsletters include many hints and ideas to assist health services around transfusion issues. They can be found at: [COVID-19 – Blood Matters newsletters - health.vic](#)



National certification of the medical scientist profession

The Australian Council for **C**ertification of the **M**edical **L**aboratory **S**cientific Workforce has simplified its acronym to CMLS. Join now at www.cmls.org.au.

Why become certified?

- Demand recognition of our professional standing as part of Australia’s health service workforce.
- Certification will be the best benchmark available to assure competent professional practice.
- With a certified workforce there will be more obligation on the employer to ensure staff have professional development opportunities afforded to them.

- As a nationally certified medical scientist you can demonstrate your ongoing commitment to professional development and self-improvement and be recognised as passionate, progressive and pro-active.

[Click here to view a short video about the certification scheme](#)

A Blood Matters education session was held in May 2021 which included information about the certification scheme. [Click here for to view meeting recording](#) (the certification presentation begins at time point 20:38).

Blood Matters is committed to providing support and education to assist in the early stages of this scheme.

How can Blood Matters help you?

The Blood Matters team are here to assist health services and laboratories through education and providing resources.

If you have suggestions for tools and resources that could assist in day to day activities and towards achieving accreditation please let Rae French or any of the Blood Matters team know by email to at rfrench@redcrossblood.org.au or bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au or phone 03 9694 3524.

To receive this document in another format, phone **03 9694 0102**, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or [email Blood Matters](mailto:bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au) <bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au>.

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Available at [Blood Matters](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/patient-care/speciality-diagnostics-therapeutics/blood-matters/transfusion-science-blood-stewardship) <<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/patient-care/speciality-diagnostics-therapeutics/blood-matters/transfusion-science-blood-stewardship>>