

Blood Matters on the Bench and Beyond

Issue 12 – November 2022

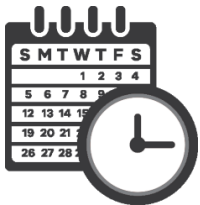
OFFICIAL

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 2022/2023

Blood Matters online events have become a regular fixture in our education calendar, continuing to support scientists and our multidisciplinary network of transfusion professionals.

Teetering on the edge of antibody titres



Tuesday 6 December 2022

12.00pm – 1.00pm

Virtual education session via Webex

Registration is required, [click here to register.](#)

Dr Zhi Tan, Transfusion Medicine Fellow, Australian Red Cross Lifeblood and Ina Messig, Regional Red Cell Reference Manager – Melbourne, Australian Red Cross Lifeblood discussing:

- ♦ utility of antibody titres and review of evidence
- ♦ Lifeblood antibody titration method

Emergency use group O RBC in Victoria

Throughout 2022 there have been serious, prolonged, and ongoing shortages of O RhD negative RBC which have impacted health services.

Large numbers of O RhD negative RBCs are held for emergency use. Most is not used for emergency purposes and often electively transfused to non-group O RhD negative patients to ensure the RBC do not expire (Blood Matters 2018).

In response to the ongoing severe shortage of O RhD negative RBC in Australia, the NBA is currently preparing a National Statement for the Emergency Use of Group O RBC, which includes the use of group O RhD positive RBC.

To align Victoria with the National Statement and practices in other jurisdictions, Blood Matters are collaborating with Safer Care Victoria (SCV) to endorse recommendations to reduce the demand for group O RhD negative RBC.

Where the patient's blood group is unknown:

- Group O RhD positive RBCs to be issued for females >50 years and males >18¹ years.
- Group O RhD negative RBCs to be issued for females of childbearing potential (≤50 years, including children) and males ≤18¹ years.
- Where the person's age or sex cannot be determined, clinical judgement should prevail.

Emergency use group O RBC are to be used only in an emergency to save a patient's life and when there is no current valid pretransfusion specimen.

SCV are also assisting Blood Matters with clinician engagement and education related to the upcoming recommendations about the use of emergency group O RBC. Further information and resources will be circulated prior to these recommendations coming into effect.

Should you have any enquiries, please contact Blood Matters by email bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au

‘STOP the waste’ festive campaign 2022-23



The festive season is fast approaching, and once again it is time for us to consider how we can keep blood wastage to a minimum over this period.

The 2022-23 festive campaign will be launched in the coming weeks, which will include checklists and an infographic to prompt transfusion laboratories and health services to look at how their blood use may be impacted over this period.

Donated blood is a precious gift, and we all need to do our part to protect and manage this valuable resource.

Please take the time to inform Lifeblood of any anticipated changes to your blood inventory and usage, to assist them to adjust donor collections accordingly. This will help to ensure sufficiency of the blood supply over the festive season.

Blood Safe eLearning

Blood Safe eLearning have a new module released on **RhD Immunoglobulin**.



Maternal red cell alloimmunisation can lead to haemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn (HDFN) and can have severe consequences for the fetus and/or neonate. The most common cause of HDFN is ABO incompatibility but this is usually mild. Severe HDFN is most commonly caused by antibodies to antigens in the Rh blood group system.

The areas covered include:

- how alloimmunisation leads to haemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn
- the process to screen women, fetuses and newborns at risk of HDFN
- development of a management plan for RhD negative pregnant women
- the prophylactic use of RhD immunoglobulin to prevent alloimmunisation in RhD negative pregnant women.

¹Or based on organisational definition of paediatrics.

This course is aimed at healthcare staff, including those working in rural and remote areas, who care for obstetric patients and newborn babies such as:

- medical staff including obstetricians, haematologists, general practitioners, registrars, neonatologists
- scientists and other laboratory staff
- midwives (including privately practicing midwives)
- nurses
- staff working in emergency departments.

This course is based on the Prophylactic use of RhD immunoglobulin in pregnancy care 2021 guidelines, Patient Blood Management Guidelines: Module 5 – Obstetrics and Maternity, and other relevant Australia and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion (ANZSBT) guidelines. The course provides evidence-based recommendations, practice points and expert opinion.



National certification of the medical scientist profession

The Australian Council for Certification of the Medical Laboratory Scientific 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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