Perioperative Blood Management: an organisational survey and anaesthetist survey of practice

Information & Governance and local audit department application guidance

What is the aim of this project?

There are two components of this project. The purpose of the organisational component is to understand how hospitals across the UK are set up to deliver patient perioperative blood management and blood product transfusion. The purpose of the individual anaesthetist survey is to assess individual anaesthetists' attitudes and practice in perioperative blood management. We want to be able to identify any variation and from this identify key quality indicators and areas to focus quality improvement.

Is this research?

As this is a survey and it does not involve any randomisation, intervention or changes to patients' care it is not considered to be research by the NHS. For these reasons, research ethics committee (REC) approval is not required. You should however register this project with your local audit department and have a named consultant supervisor if this is a requirement by them.

What type of data is collected?

This project collects operational/service level data and anonymous data from individual anaesthetists pertaining to adult (>18 years) perioperative blood management. No patient or clinical identifiable data is collected. Hospital details will only be used to determine if there are any regional differences and hospitals or trusts will be not be identifiable in any future publications.

What is the timeframe for this project?

We plan to launch this is January 2022 with the hope that sites will complete within one month.

What information governance or regulatory approvals are required?

None, as no patient identifiable data or sensitive information is being collected. You should however register this project with your local audit department and have a consultant supervisor within your department.

How is data submitted?

Data will be entered by local collaborators and individual anaesthetists into electronic data collections forms on the secure web-based portal REDCap.

Will the audit department at my hospital need to assist in any way?

No. There is no requirement from your local audit department for identification of patients, retrieval of notes, proforma design, data analysis, presentation or project advice.

Where is data stored?

Data will be stored via the University College London (UCL) REDCap service which is a secure web application for managing online surveys and databases.

Who will have access to the data?

The data submitted will be seen an analysed by the NIHR BTRU (blood and transplant research unit) in Data Driven Transfusion Practice Team and the RAFT Team (research and audit federation of trainees). IT systems in use have various levels of security inbuilt including ID password security. Data will be stored on a password-protected systems to prevent unauthorised users gaining access. When the data has been analysed reports will be shared for the purposes of academic publication. All information shared will be aggregated results and not individual hospital findings. No individual hospital data will be available to anyone outside the study team.