

Patient Consent and Blood Transfusion

Monday, 17th August 2009

Transfusion of blood components is one of the most common medical procedures utilized in almost all clinical settings and like other medical interventions, has associated benefits and risks.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)/Australasian Society of Blood Transfusion (ASBT) Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Use of Blood Components recommend that as 'part of the informed consent process, a patient should be given clear explanation of the potential risks and benefits of blood component therapy in his or her situation'.

The requirement for informed consent for transfusion has now also been included in the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards (ACHS) Evaluation and Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP) 4th Edition standards.

There are many questions about how clinicians and hospitals should meet these requirements, including

- What information should be given to patients about the risks of transfusion?
- Should there be any information included about alternatives to transfusion?
- Should the consent be written or verbal?
- Who should have the discussion with the patient?
- Should the process be different for those who require regular transfusion, such as haematology patients on chronic transfusion support?
- How should clinicians approach informed consent in an emergency?

The purpose of this seminar:

- To explore the medical, legal and ethical issues involved in informed consent for transfusion
- To assist you in developing an approach to informed consent for blood transfusion at your institution

Venue: Charles Latrobe Lecture Theatre
Royal Melbourne Hospital Function and Convention Centre

Grattan St, Parkville, Victoria 3050

Seminar date: Monday 17th August, 2009

Seminar time: 10.30 - 3.30pm.
(Registration opens at 10.00)

Cost - \$50 per person (incl. of GST)

Further venue details, accommodation and parking information can be found on our website at:
www.torc.org.au

Phone enquiries: Rosalie Clementson 03 9903 0551 or Nikita Schembri 03 9903 0245.



Speaker details (in order of appearance)

Dr Louise Phillips is a Senior Research Fellow with the Monash University/Australian Red Cross Blood Service partnership program - Transfusion Outcomes Research Collaborative (TORC) which is working on a variety of projects in the area of blood component transfusion. Louise's interests lie in blood transfusion and clinical outcome registries. Since 2005 Louise has been involved in the establishment and management of the Haemostasis Registry looking at the off-label use of recombinant activated Factor VII (NovoSeven). This Registry involves over 100 hospitals throughout Australia and New Zealand and is considered a leading example of its kind.

Prof James Isbister is an emeritus consultant haematologist at Royal North Shore, Hospital and Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Sydney and adjunct professor, University of Technology, Sydney. He has a broad range of interests in haematology and transfusion medicine, especially in apheresis, haematological aspects of oxygen transport and complications of blood transfusion. Prof Isbister's career interest in transfusion medicine stems from initial experiences in critical care medicine and the hazards of blood transfusion. He has researched and published extensively in transfusion medicine and patient blood management, including a book on blood component therapy in clinical practice. His contributions have been acknowledged by several awards, including the Peter Schiff award and the President's award of the Society for the Advancement of Blood Management.

Dr Bill Renwick is a haematologist at The Royal Melbourne Hospital and Western Hospitals Footscray/Sunshine. He has a broad range of interests in both clinical and laboratory haematology including malignant haematology, thalassaemia and haemoglobinopathies, as well as transfusion medicine. He is the consultant in charge of mentoring residents through the Haematology and Bone Marrow Transplant Units at The Royal Melbourne Hospital and runs the Laboratory Haematology Registrar training programme for Victorian candidates.

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Speaker Profiles

Dr Heather Wellington is a medical practitioner and lawyer. She is a consultant with DLA Phillips Fox Health Law Practice and advises hospitals, peak bodies and governments nationally on a broad range of policy, governance and planning issues. Heather is also Chair of the Board of Melbourne's Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and a director of health insurer GMHBA. A member of the Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health from 2000-2005. Heather has a continuing deep professional interest in the safety and quality of health care.

Professor Paul Komesaroff is a physician, medical researcher and philosopher at Monash University in Melbourne. He is Director of the Monash Centre for the Study of Ethics in Medicine and Society, Director of the Clinical Ethics Service at the Alfred Hospital, Ethics Convener of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Convener of the Global Reconciliation Network and Chair of the Health and Development Alliance. He is a Past President of the Australasian Bioethics Association. He is extensively involved in the teaching of ethics and the philosophy of medicine at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. He is actively involved in a number of research projects in clinical ethics, including investigations of complementary medicine, HIV, haemophilia, menopause, genetic testing, relationships with pharmaceutical industry, migrants from the Horn of Africa, obesity, cosmetic surgery and palliative care.

Maria Kastoras and Louisa Di Pietro are both thalassaemia patients who are involved with the support organisation, Thalassaemia Australia. Maria is the Office Coordinator and Patient Liaison Officer and Louisa is their Community Educator.

Dr Chris Maxwell is Clinical Director Performance and Outcomes Service (POS) of the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) and a Clinician Surveyor for the ACHS accreditation system Evaluation and Quality Improvement Program (EQulP). He is also a Senior Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at the Northern Hospital Epping and until recently was Director Clinical Services Obstetrics Gynaecology and Paediatrics of that hospital for 10 years being involved in the development of clinical audit and review systems. In his role at ACHS he has been involved in the development of clinical indicators and the analysing and reporting of the indicators to hospitals and at a national level from the ACHS national clinical data set, which is perhaps the biggest source of clinical data arising from all sectors of the Australian health system.

Dr Merrole Cole-Sinclair is a Consultant Haematologist in the Haematology Department at St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne and the Chair of the St Vincent's Hospital Transfusion Committee and the Steering Committee of the Transfusion Outcomes Research Collaborative of the Australian Red Cross Blood Service and the Monash University Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine. She has a special interest in clinical quality improvement and patient safety.

Dr Erica Wood received her medical degree from the University of Melbourne and completed her specialist training in haematology in Melbourne and later, in the US. Since returning to Melbourne in 2000, Erica has worked at the Australian Red Cross Blood Service in clinical transfusion practice, teaching and research. She holds honorary consultant haematologist appointments at The Royal Melbourne Hospital and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and is presently a visiting haematologist at Bayside Health. Erica has participated on the Steering Committees and working groups for the 'Blood Matters - Better Safer Transfusion' program and has served with the World Health Organization as a regional adviser in blood safety.

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Time	Speaker	Organisation	Area covered
1000	REGISTRATION		
SESSION 1: THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF PATIENT CONSENT FOR TRANSFUSION FACILITATOR: DR LOUISE PHILLIPS			
1030 - 1040	Dr Louise Phillips	Senior Research Fellow, Transfusion Outcomes Research Collaborative, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of the day• Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine- (DEPM) initiatives
1040 - 1100	Prof James Isbister	Haematologist, Royal North Shore Hospital, NSW, and Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of Sydney	An overview of patient consent for blood transfusion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• risks of blood transfusion• how to present risks and benefits to the patient
1100 - 1120	Dr Bill Renwick	Haematologist; Western Health, Victoria	The Chronically Transfused Patient <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the risks in those transfused on a regular basis• how often do we need consent?
1120 - 1140	tbc	tbc	Patient Consent in the Emergency Setting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• when is it OK to transfuse without consent?• how far should we go to obtain consent?
1140 - 1210	MORNING TEA (30 minutes)		
SESSION 2: SOME OTHER PERSPECTIVES ON THE CONSENT ISSUE FACILITATOR: DR ZOE MCQUILTEN			
1210- 1230	Dr Heather Wellington	DLA Phillips Fox	The Legal Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none">• what does the law require of a clinician?• what are the hospital's obligations?
1230 - 1250	Prof Paul Komesaroff	Monash Centre for Ethics in Medicine and Society, Monash University	Ethical Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the rights of the patient to know risks of treatment• when too much information causes patients distress
1250 - 1310	Maria Kastoras & Louisa Di Pietro	Thalassaemia Australia	The patient's perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none">• pros and cons of patient consent• different patient perspectives of transfusion
13:10 - 1400	LUNCH (50 mins)		
SESSION 3: STATE AND HOSPITAL INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE TRANSFUSION SAFETY FACILITATOR: DR ERICA WOOD			
1400 - 1420	Mr Chris Maxwell	Clinical Director, Performance and Outcomes Service, Australian Council on Healthcare Standards	Blood Transfusion and EQUIP standards <ul style="list-style-type: none">• overview of EQUIP standards in relation to blood transfusion• blood transfusion practices, national ACHS perspective
1420- 1440	Dr Merrole Cole-Sinclair	Head, Haematology Laboratory; St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne	A Hospital that has made the move <ul style="list-style-type: none">• experiences in implementing patient consent requirements for blood transfusion
1440 - 1530	Patient Consent for Blood Transfusion at your hospital		
The panel, chaired by Dr Erica Wood, will include speakers from the day's program. Panel members will discuss further the issues surrounding patient consent for blood transfusion and how we can implement this requirement at our hospitals.			
1530	CLOSE		

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REGISTRATION FORM

COST - \$50 per person (inc. of GST)

Payment can be made by cheque payable to Monash University, or by credit card. Cheque payments must be forwarded independent of any other payments. A copy of your registration must be included with your payment. (You will be notified by email within 10 working days of receipt of registration)



FAX completed registration forms to: 03 9903 0181

OR

EMAIL completed registration forms to
rosalie.clementson@med.monash.edu.au

POST cheques or money orders to:
Gary White - Transfusion Outcomes Research Collaborative Seminar
Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine
Monash University, Alfred Hospital,
Melbourne Victoria 3004

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