The problem:
In Victoria there is no review process of current sites holding emergency O negative red cell (RBC) stock

Background:
• O negative RBC are universal, and held across Australia as emergency stock
• Only 9% of the Australians are O negative
• RBCs use is reducing, however demand for O negative RBCs is increasing at 16%
• Sustainability of supply concerns from governments, National Blood Authority and the Blood Service
• RBC wastage targets set by governments

SMART aims:
• By September 2016 develop a method to review (holdings) appropriate allocation and inventory management of emergency O negative RBC in rural Victoria
• By January 2017 test the review method at two rural Victoria health services

Results to date:
• Key stakeholder survey developed and tested at 3 sites (additional site included) [Survey includes clinical mix, number of units held, when and how often they are used, and distance from pathology service Figure 1)]
• Interview template developed and tested at 3 sites
• Costing model developed and tested at 3 sites [Model covers all aspects of supply, management, and movement of emergency O negative RBC units (using hub & spoke method) (Figure 2)]
• Governance Committee established to review finding and make recommendations

Next steps:
• Governance Committee (GC) to make recommendations about the appropriateness of these stock holdings to:
  • Department of Health & Human Services
  • Health Services
  • Blood Service
• Apply recommendations from the GC
• Roll out and embed the review methodology across Victoria as recommended by the GC
• Monitor review impact of any implemented changes

Key observations:
• Diversity between rural and metropolitan
• Importance of local stakeholders
• Value of pilot testing
• Patience and forward planning when arranging meeting across long distances and with a diverse group of people

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