



Great Ormond Street Hospital London

Reducing the usage and wastage of O RhD negative blood

O RhD negative blood is used as the emergency blood or 'flying squad' as it is the universal donor and is suitable for all patients in a life threatening emergency. In Great Ormond Street Hospital this blood has to be irradiated which ultimately shortens the shelf life of the blood, and can lead to some inevitable wastage.

What we said we'd do

In the London region Great Ormond Street has a higher than average usage of O RhD negative blood stock and therefore the Blood Transfusion Team wanted to reduce this usage and in turn minimise wastage of this precious resource.

What we did

In 2014 the use of all of O RhD neg stock was audited over a period of 6 months to see which groups of patients received it.

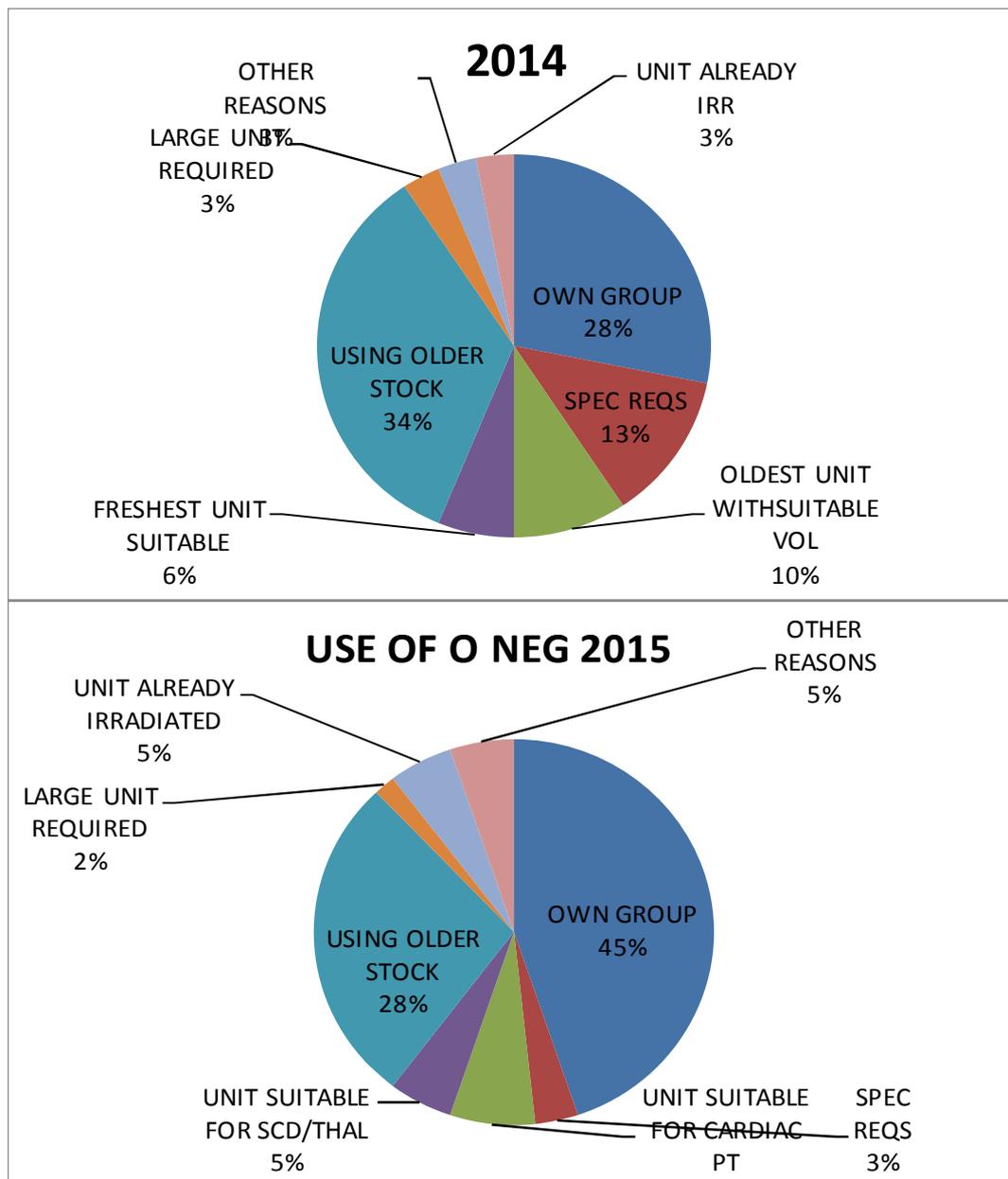
An audit of availability and use of flying squad blood in Ocean Theatre and ECMO over the previous 2 years was conducted. A proposal was then taken to the HTC to recommend the removal of the Ocean Theatre and ECMO flying squad blood as it had only been used twice in 2 years which was a reduction of 4 units per week. A trial for 6 months was agreed by all stakeholders.

Some minor adjustments were made to blood stock levels to increase use of other RhD negative groups.

In 2015 the usage of O RhD negative blood was audited again over a period of 3 months to see if there had been improvement.

What the data shows

The data shows that relatively minor interventions have had a prompt and dramatic effect on the appropriate use of O RhD negative blood. Wastage also dropped significantly from 33 units in 6 months in 2014 to 2 units in 3 months in 2015.



What's going to happen next?

Removal of Ocean Theatre and ECMO flying squad is a permanent change.

Review the irradiation of all flying squad at GOS.

Continue to encourage the appropriate use of all O RhD negative blood.

How this benefits patients

Reduction in usage and wastage of O RhD negative blood components helps to ensure they are available where and when they are clinically needed.

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