

Welcome to the first of our Blood Stocks Management Scheme's Newsletter. This is our chance to tell you a little bit about what's been happening within the scheme over the past few months and more importantly what's still to come.

Meet the Team

The BSMS team has continued to evolve over the past 2 years and now comprises of 3 scientists all with hospital transfusion laboratory experience and 2 data analysts who provide the technical and data management skills to analyse and present vast quantities of data.



Updated Red Cell and Platelet User Categories for 2022

There hasn't been an update to the BSMS user categories for a couple of years; primarily because of the impact Covid-19 has had on normal service configuration and reduction in component issues especially during 2020. However, the team have completed a recent review and hospital user categories have now been updated and will be used in all upcoming reports. To provide effective hospital benchmarking we have considered both red cell and platelet GROSS issues (what was issued to hospitals by the appropriate blood service) and NET issues (as for gross issues but also factoring in any component movements) over the past 5 years to establish our clusters (weighted for recent annual component issues).

The updated document containing all hospital user groups can be found on our webpages www.bloodstocks.co.uk and within the report section of VANESA.

Red Cell BSMS User Groups

BSMS user category	Annual component issues for cluster
Very High	> 9,500
High	> 5,750 & ≤ 9,500
Moderate	> 3,000 & ≤ 5,750
Low	> 500 & ≤ 3,000
Very Low	≤ 500

Platelet BSMS User Groups

BSMS user category	Annual component issues for cluster
Very High	> 1,800
High	> 900 & ≤ 1,800
Moderate	> 300 & ≤ 900
Low	> 45 & ≤ 300
Very Low	≤ 45

New BSMS reports

For many years BSMS has been providing numerous reports for Hospitals and Regional Transfusion Committee's as commentary and comparison for hospitals to measure themselves against. But what has become clear is that sometimes these can be duplicated and even overlooked. In April 2022, we issued our rebranded hospital report that looks to take the best bits from its predecessors, whilst tapping into the valuable resource of red cell stock data to provide what we hope transfusion teams will use to review and monitor changes to stock and wastage with a shift in focus from regional comparison to provide more realistic benchmarking within component user groups.

Tips for getting the most out of the new reports:

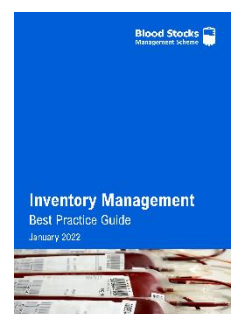
- **Record and enter daily red cell stock data** - this should be embedded as part of normal laboratory operations; but should ideally be performed consistently at a similar time each day and should where possible include weekend counts. Recording and analysing stock variation on all days of the week and help to better understand how your red cell inventory is working for you.
- **Record wastage for all components supplied by NHSBT** - this will provide you with the best understanding of overall inventory management and highlight opportunities for improvement where they exist.
- **When to submit wastage by** - Whether you record daily, or monthly wastage aim to do so before the **12th of each month** so that your latest data is captured. We will no longer include a wastage reporting lag as we move towards smarter data collection in the future.
- **Component movements** - If you send or receive components (especially red cell units) with other hospitals, either within the same trust or outside your current group – remember to record these in VANESA. This will that the relationship between the data items we report maintains the correct balance and captures necessary variations. If you need any help setting this up or refining your current process, please get in touch. Where these processes include a recycling agreement with a private provider – ensure a suitable process for recording wastage is maintained.

Benchmarking and KPI's

BSMS have reviewed component issue and wastage data from the last 10 years and have created some user group component specific key performance indicators for ISI and WAPI. These should be used to help laboratories identify where they may be an outlier – not with the intention of highlighting poor performance but to assist with identification of where we all might improve.

Information regarding the new KPI's is featured within a new '**Best Practice Guide for Inventory Management**' document, located on the blood stock website. The guide covers all aspects of stock management including stock levels and ordering patterns, training, collaboration, remote issue, conservation, and emergency planning. It also includes an audit tool for hospitals to use, with key recommendations sprinkled throughout. Please visit

<https://www.bloodstocks.co.uk/resources/publications/> for access to the document.



If you have any questions or would like some further support, please do not hesitate to email us at bsms@nhsbt.nhs.uk

Celebrating 20+ years for BSMS

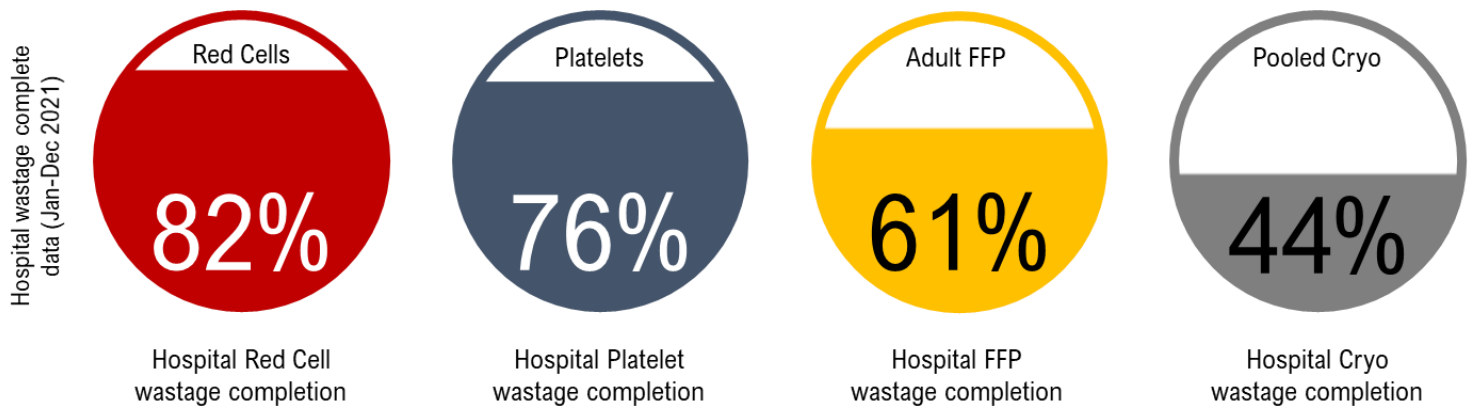
It seems to have crept up on us but did you know that Blood Stocks Management Scheme is actually 20 years old....well actually a little older. It was first established in 2001, and whilst complete records weren't obtained for over a year it seems only right to mark the occasion. Before looking forward it seems like an opportune moment to express our thanks to BSMS colleagues of the past for their contribution, knowledge and innovation.

The current team hope to continue the tradition of working in partnership with hospital colleagues to champion best practice and support change.

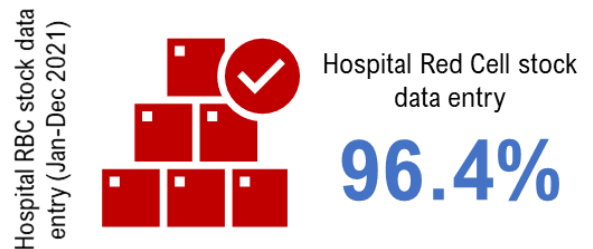


Current participation rate

The limitation of manual data entry was always going to mean that data submission was unlikely to achieve 100% completion. Data participation for 2021 stock and wastage is shown below:



However, when it comes to red cell stock entry data the numbers are significantly better. We would encourage all hospital laboratory teams to support the scheme and the transfusion community by providing complete data sets to further inform the supply chain picture – your data is extremely valuable to inform the decisions we all make.



BSMS Education Day

BSMS also have a responsibility to provide education to laboratory staff to help improve stock management practices within hospital laboratories. We have organised and presented at various educational events over the years, including the BSMS Roadshows, which have always been well attended with accomplished speakers giving valuable presentations. BSMS have continued to provide education 'virtually' at different meetings and CPD events, as well as being invited to lecture for the new online NHSBT MSc in Applied Transfusion and Transplantation Sciences, and BBTS.

BSMS are also providing a series of free online education events for BMS's regarding smarter inventory management, where small numbers of hospital participants discuss stock levels and wastage and have the opportunity to look at their own hospital figures, anonymously, and calculate their ISI's. This event has been designed to be fun, interactive and includes various case studies and quizzes to work through. The event also supports standard 8.7 in the IBMS Specialist diploma in Haematology with hospital transfusion practice and has been accepted by the IBMS as a recognised CPD activity. There were initially 4 dates released for 2022, in which all places were filled with 1 week so we are currently looking at more dates and are thrilled with the uptake.

Blood Stocks Management Scheme Roadshows

The always popular BSMS Roadshows have been away for a couple of years for reasons beyond our control but please be assured that we will be looking to hold these as soon as we are able to. What we make a focus however depends on you – what would you like to see discussed; what format should this take and how might we create the best learning and sharing environment for us all? Please get in touch if you have any ideas or better still if you have something you want to share.

Supporting BSMS by getting involved

The Blood Stocks Management Scheme is hosted by NHSBT but is funded and accountable to the UK forum. The scheme has a steering group and operations group who help define the strategic path we follow and support the formulation and hosting of educational events. Members of both groups consist of appointed individuals acting as representatives for either blood services or hospitals. We are always looking for fresh interest and engagement so if you would like to put your name forward, please drop us a line and email matthew.bend@nhsbt.nhs.uk with a brief summary of who you are, where you work and why you want to get involved.

Get in touch

The Blood Stocks Management Scheme should be seen as a resource at the disposal of transfusion colleagues to support data collection, analysis and improvement. Do you have a story to share or need and support; we would love for you to get in touch for any reason to see how we might be able to help. Examples of projects and improvements seen are available on our webpages.....could you be next to shout about what you have done so that others can learn and benefit from your innovation. Visit <https://www.bloodstocks.co.uk/resources/publications/> to see and learn from what others have done. We know there are some fantastic projects and innovation that support maximising the use of valuable components; let us help you should about it.

We plan to publish and circulate a number newsletter updates each year, but future editions are likely to single page quick reads. Keep an eye out for the next one this summer.



If you have any questions or would like some further support, please do not hesitate to email us at bsms@nhsbt.nhs.uk