

Reducing Blood Waste on the MedSurg Units

Introduction/Problem

The American Red Cross has issued a nationwide emergency call for blood and platelet donors over this past year: Blood supply shortages are multifactorial.

- Mass trauma/attacks
- Weather disasters
- Blood centers typically see fewer donors in the summer due to vacations.
- Zika restrictions.
- FDA increased the minimum acceptable hemoglobin level for male blood and platelet donors from 12.5 g/dL to 13.0 g/dL. (AM Red Cross 5/16)
- More demand. Local physicians are seeing more people coming in for blood-intensive procedures such as vascular and orthopedic surgeries under the Affordable Care Act, (Health and Medicine)

Aim/Goal

A survey of MedSurg floors determined we were wasting 14-20 units per month related to

- Patient refusal.
- No: IV, Consent, Order
- Patient Fever

All things that are listed on the pick-up slip

The Team

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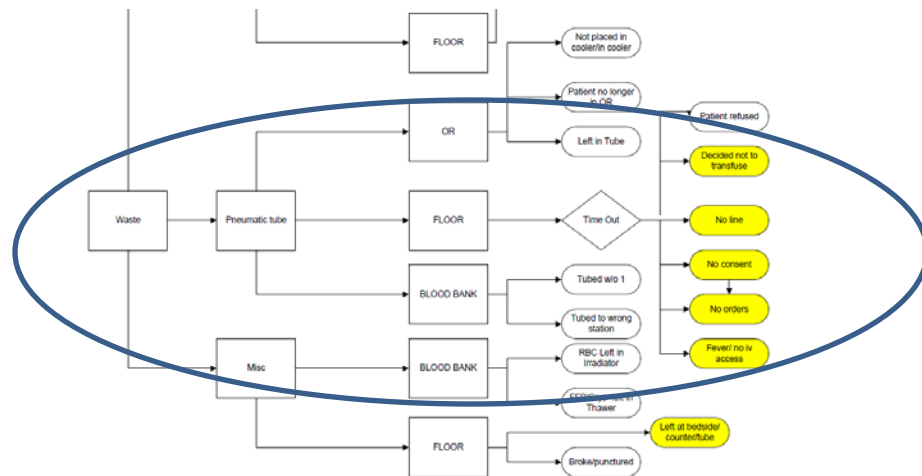
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The Interventions

- We provided education to the floors with a goal to reduce waste by 84 units a year if criteria on the pickup slip were **verified before sending for blood**.
- We presented the education at Quality and Safety Ops.
- We provided educational material for reinforcing the use of the blood pick up slip.
- We explained why we thought the problem was occurring.
- We explained why it was of value to the patient, hospital and blood bank to make an improvement.

Results/Progress to Date

Since we emphasized the education and explained that, why upholding the standard is important we have reduced blood waste from an average of 14-20 units per month to 7 units wasted for the month of August. (per Blood Bank)



Lessons Learned

- Reinforcing current practice and educating staff about the shortage has reduced blood waste for reasons that are within our control.
- Underscoring the value to our patients, ourselves and others has increased awareness.
- We found that additional waste was occurring when units had a shared tube station, so we provided targeted education to those units.

Next Steps

- We are moving forward to initiate training for scanning blood at the bedside on the MedSurg units. This will reduce the potential for blood to be wasted due to delays with sign out

