



# **Developing Clinical Standards for Blood Transfusion**

**Sandra Gray,  
Advisor to NHS QIS Project Group**

# Aims of presentation

- Background
- Evidence
- Standard Themes
- Development Process

# NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (NHS QIS)



- Established in January 2003
- To lead NHSScotland (NHSS) in improving the quality of care and treatment it provides
- To report to the public on the performance of NHSS against nationally agreed standards

- NHS QIS Steering Group on the Safe, Effective and Efficient Use of Blood Components and their Alternatives (2004)

Main Recommendations included:

- The development and dissemination of standards for transfusion practice

# NHS Quality Improvement Scotland Standards Development Unit



- Develop (and revise) clinical and non-clinical standards ensuring consultation with stakeholders
- Develop Quality Assurance Frameworks and accreditation programmes for Managed Clinical Networks
- Liaise with other standard setting organisations e.g. National Care Standards Committee

# Principles Applicable to the Standards



- The standards set by NHS QIS are:
- focused on clinical issues and include non-clinical factors that impact on the quality of care;
- written in simple language;
- based on evidence;
- written in account of other recognised standards and guidelines

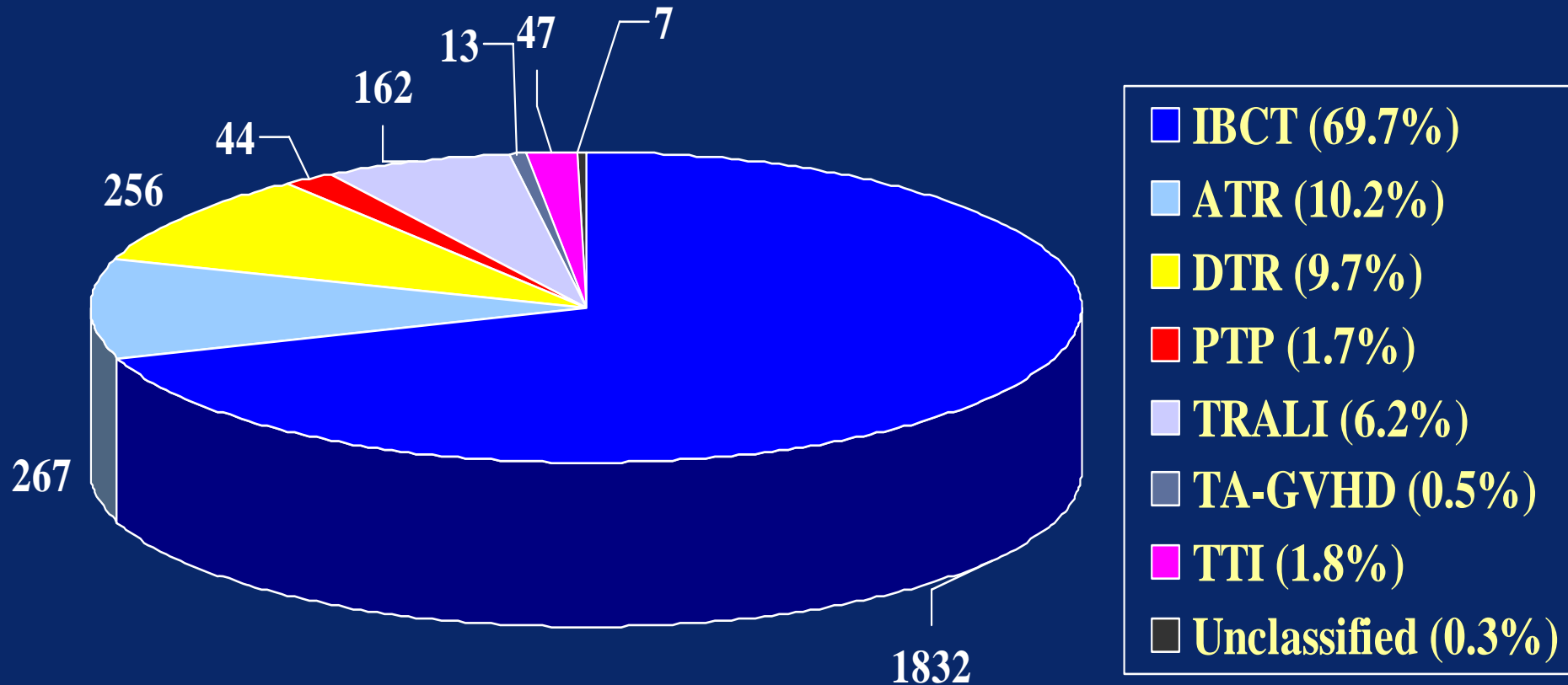
# Performance Assessment & Practice Development Directorate



## Performance Assessment Unit

- Support self assessment framework
- Undertake visits
- Publish the findings

# Serious Hazards of Transfusion Reporting Scheme (1996-2004)



Cumulative Data - Questionnaires Analysed 2628

# Serious Hazards of Transfusion Reporting Scheme (1996-2004)



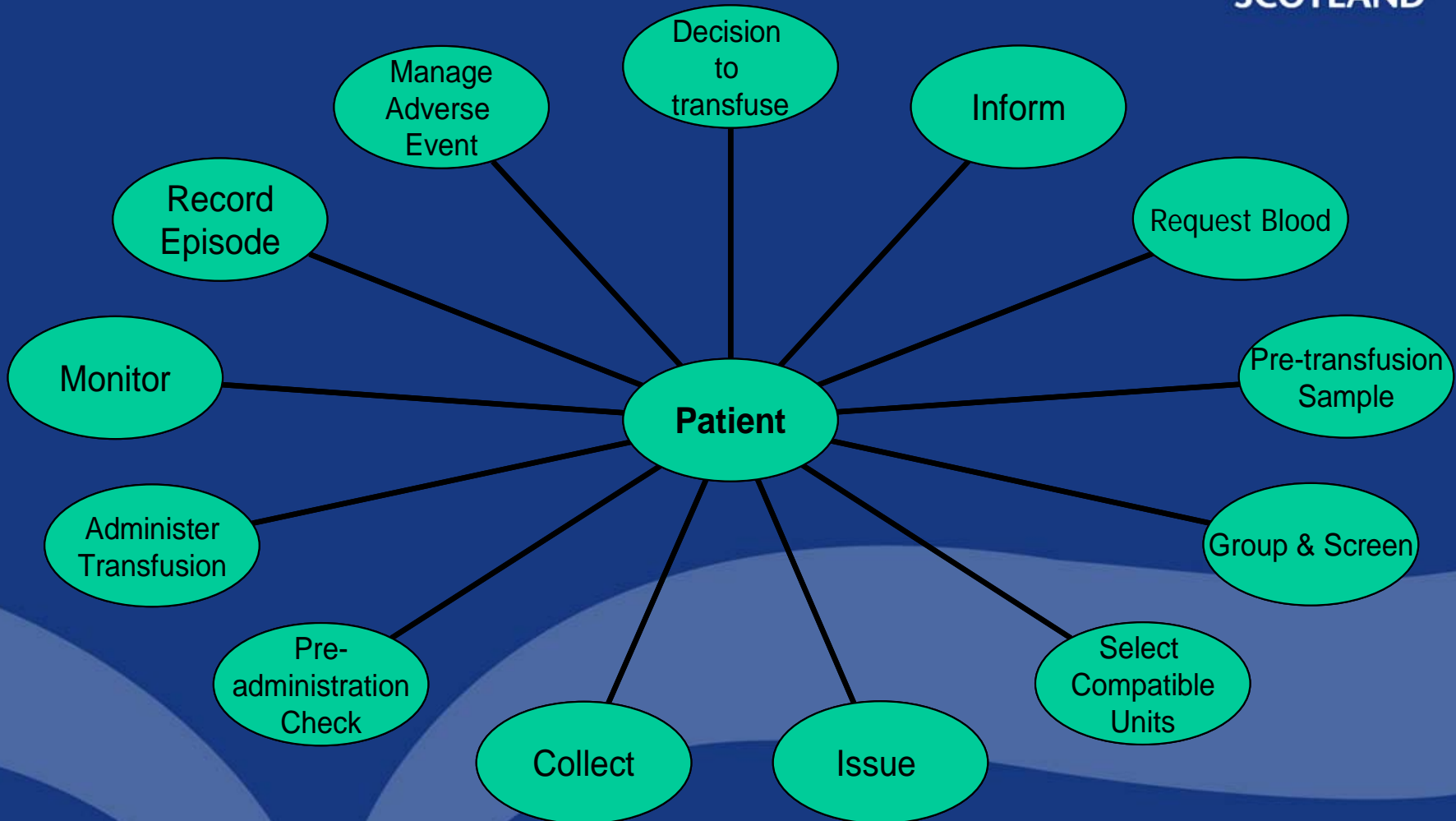
“Wrong blood incidents are without exception avoidable errors!”

“The formal patient identity check at the bedside is the final opportunity to prevent a mis-transfusion”

# Scoping the standards

- Clinical advisors joined NHS QIS in April 2005
- Wide range of evidence reviewed including: systematic reviews database\*; national BCSH transfusion guidelines, SIGN guideline, SEHD advice, relevant research / audit studies etc
- AGREE guideline assessment tool
- CASP assessment tools
- Potential areas for standard development identified

# The Patient Transfusion Episode



# Key Personnel



- Clinical Support Workers
- Porters
- Phlebotomists
- Biomedical Scientists
- Medical Laboratory Assistants
- Medical Students
- Doctors (all grades)
- Nursing students
- Nurses (all grades)
- Midwives
- Operating Department Practitioners

# Patient Data Sets



## Minimum

- Surname
- Forename
- Sex
- Date of birth
- Hospital number
- Address (optional)

## Mandatory

- Request type e.g. G&S
- Reason for request
- Requesting doctor
- Number / type / special requirements
- Date & time required

# Potential areas for standards



- Core Principles
- Clinical Management – pre-transfusion
- Clinical Management – laboratory
- Clinical Management – administration

# Project Steering Group

- Convened July 2005
- Chaired by Dr R Heading
- Members included:
  - Clinical advisors
  - Nurses
  - Doctors
  - Laboratory scientists / managers
  - Clinical Risk co-ordinator
  - Trainers
  - Information analyst
  - Lay representatives
- Reviewed Scoping report

# Project Steering Group



- Met five times, July 2005 to March 2006
- Draft clinical standards published December 2005
- 3-month consultation period
- 2 pilot visits, 2 open meetings
- Met twice in July 2006 to review comments, finalise content
- Standards published 22 September 2006

# Format of the Standards



- **Title:**  
*Summarises the area on which the standard focuses*
- **Standard statement:**  
*The level of performance to be achieved*
- **Rationale:**  
*The reason why the standard is considered important*
- **Criteria:**
  - Essential
    - Desirable

# Implementation Process



- NHSS Boards - minimum 6 months to implement Standards
- Performance Assessment Visit
- Self-assessment Framework
- Feedback
- Written Report

# Acknowledgements



- Project Steering Group Members
- NHS QIS Standards Development Team
- SNBTS
- NHS Scotland

# NHS QIS – Further information



Further information can be accessed at our  
website on  
[www.nhshealthquality.org](http://www.nhshealthquality.org)