

2019 Annual SHOT Report – Supplementary information

Chapter 13: Right Blood Right Patient (RBRP)

Information technology (IT)-related RBRP cases n=42

Case 13.2: Extra care required when using manual systems during downtime

The usual printer was not working during laboratory information management system (LIMS) server 'downtime'. The LIMS was working and blood was issued to a patient using the LIMS. Compatibility labels were printed using the back-up printer system. Two ABO-compatible red blood cell units were issued and transfused but the units issued had different donation numbers to the ones allocated by the LIMS. There was no procedure in place to check the units and patient details against the LIMS system when the back-up printer was being used. A new two-person check sheet has been programmed into the back-up printing program, to ensure two independent people check before the blood leaves the laboratory.

Case 13.3: Medical staff respond inappropriately to electronic blood management system (EBMS) printer failure

A patient bled during surgery and blood was available for immediate remote electronic issue (REI). At the point of collection from the REI refrigerator, the label printer failed, and a blank label was issued. The hub laboratory was consulted and the biomedical scientist correctly advised the theatre team that emergency blood was immediately available or compatible blood could be provided if there was enough time to label and transport it from the hub laboratory. Neither option was acceptable to the surgeon or anaesthetist who went for a third incorrect option of transfusing the unlabelled units that had been released from the REI refrigerator.

Case 13.4: Incorrect use of the emergency button on BloodTrack®

During a Code Red trauma call 20 components were transfused over 30 minutes to a patient with a different spelling of the trauma name on the units and the identification (ID) wristband. Although a BloodTrack® system was in place and was used for all the components, the operator selected the emergency mode which does not check the ID on the blood against the ID band.