

Focus on electronic blood management systems (EBMS) from SCRIPT user survey

The SHOT UK Collaborative Reviewing and reforming IT Processes in Transfusion (SCRIPT) group aims to improve transfusion safety through improved IT systems and practice.

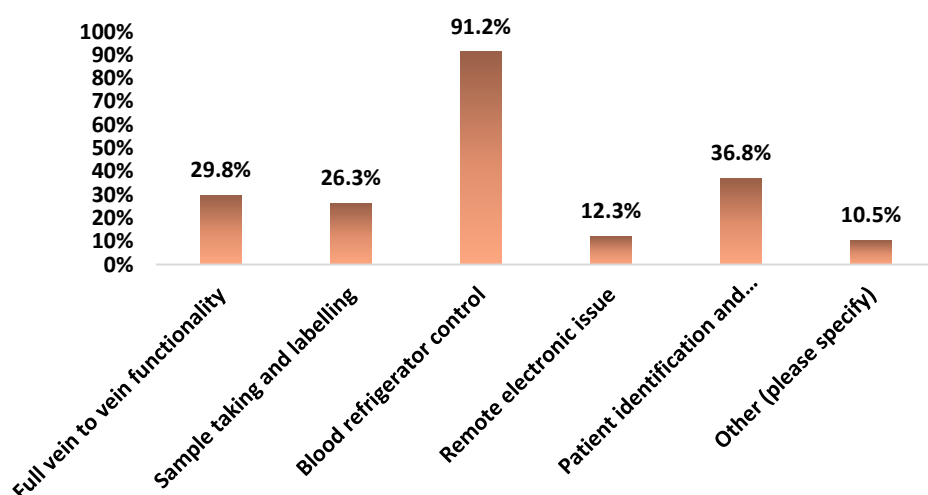


- A Survey Monkey™ survey was sent to all registered SHOT reporters in the UK and was open between – 30 November 2020- 14 February 2021
- One response was requested per transfusion laboratory: 102 responses were received
- A completion rate of 88% was recorded
- Responses were received from a wide range of different sized hospitals, including NHS and private laboratories, and responses were received from all countries within the UK

EBMS question results

- EBMS were used by 57 of 97(58.8%) respondents, most implementation was in the past 5 years 27/37 (73.0%) (Fig 1)
- Full vein to vein functionality was used in 17/57(29.8%) of hospitals
- Nearly all hospitals with EBMS (52/57,91.2%) had blood refrigerator control for collection of components

Fig 1. What modules does your electronic blood management system have? n=57



“We bought vein to vein and planned to implement fridge control, sample and then admin over the course of a year but the handheld technology would not work so had to abandon after 5 years of trying to implement.”

Barriers to IT implementation

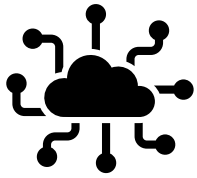
- **Finances and resources** are the biggest barrier (42/89)
- **Technical issues** (11/89)
- **IT support** (10/89) and
- **Engagement** from senior management (9/89) were also cited as barriers



Respondents ideas for overcoming barriers (top 5 areas following thematic analysis)

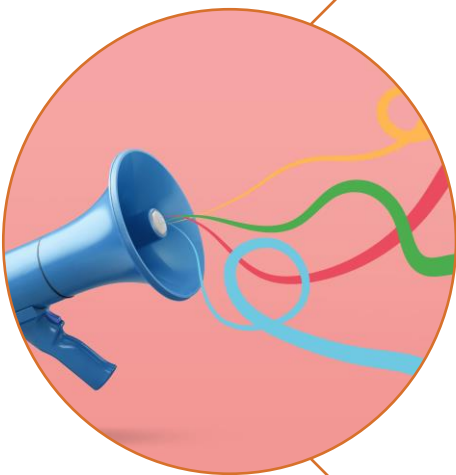
Solution	Number n=87	%
Communication and engagement	19	21.8
Increased resources	13	14.9
Persistence	8	9.2
National intervention	7	8.0
Business case	5	5.7

Upgrades to EBMS



- 26/56 respondents stated no upgrades were offered for EBMS
- 30 were offered 1-2 upgrades per year
- Where upgrades were offered these were only all taken by 50% of respondents
- 42/54 respondents stated release notes were available in advance of upgrades

“Business case developed and submitted for [EBMS system]. Unfortunately no IT funds could be identified and available to support taking this project forward within our Trust.”



ACTION FOR SCRIPT:

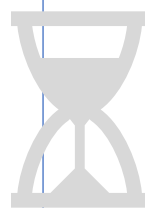
SHOT reinforces recommendations that electronic systems should be implemented. A communication should be sent to chief executives, chief clinical information officers, chief nursing information officers, patient safety leads and clinical governance departments.

NHSX or other central body should raise transfusion in the digital agenda when discussing resource allocation for digital projects which will improve patient safety. This central body should lead the project for the whole of the UK.

Summary



There is progress with implementation of EBMS in the UK but deficiencies in systems supporting collection and administration capabilities remain



Organisations must recognise the importance of safer transfusion IT systems and the risks of not introducing these available technologies, or not giving proper resource to implementing them correctly. SHOT has been recommending the use of electronic systems since 2017



Appropriate resources must be available to support upgrades to EBMS. These ensure that system deficiencies are resolved and improved functionality is implemented