'Unsafe' transfusions (n=54)

Fifty-four patients received potentially 'unsafe' transfusions, including damaged packs (2), units past their expiry (27), or that had been out of temperature control (19). A further 6 were outwith guidelines on sampling intervals for pre-transfusion testing.

Learning points

- Named individuals should be given responsibility for checking of satellite refrigerators and for removal of expired units

- 'Emergency O D negative' blood should be rotated back into main stock before it nears expiry

Adverse events relating to anti-D immunoglobulin (Ig) (n=67)

Sixty-seven events were related to anti-D administration and are summarised in table 4 below.

Table 4

Type of event	Number
Late administration of anti-D Ig	16
Anti-D Ig given to D pos patient	15
Anti-D Ig given to patient with immune anti-D	11
Anti-D Ig given to patient with weak D antigen	10
Anti-D Ig given on basis of incorrect cord group	5
Other	10

There was evidence of lack of understanding by both midwives and laboratory staff of the significance of immune anti-D.

'Right blood to right patient' (n=86)

Eighty-six cases were received (11 re-classified from IBCT) which described episodes where the right component was given to the right patient despite one or more errors in the checking process. These cases do not fit the existing SHOT reporting categories and are, therefore, not included in the total number of incidents received. They do, however, provide some important evidence indicating that serious errors continue to be made which, in these cases, were fortuitously not harmful to the patient.

The 86 cases are summarised in table 5. These identification elements were missing from, or contained errors on, a wide variety of documentation (for example sample tubes, patient notes, wristbands etc.) Similarly the errors were made in different locations (e.g. A&E, hospital blood bank etc.)

Table 5

Right Blood to Right Patient episodes

Elements which were wrong	Number of incidents
Date of birth	27
Spelling of name	19
Hospital number	17
Date of birth and Hospital number	6
Incorrect Surname	4
Date of birth and address	2
Transposed donation numbers	2
Spelling of name and wrong date of birth	2
A&E number	1
Date of birth, address, and first name	1
Date of birth, hospital number and first name	1
First name	1
Gender	1
NHS number	1
Missing documentation	1