An Extension to the Post Thaw Shelf Life of Fresh Frozen Plasma

A customer focused implementation
Fran Gill on behalf of the Post Thaw Extension Project Team

Background

In July 2015 the British Committee for Standards in Haematology (BCSH) issued ‘A practical guideline for the haematological management of major haemorrhage’ (Hunt et al 2015). This guidance recommends that transfusion laboratories seeing major haemorrhage cases due to trauma should consider having pre-thawed plasma on standby to allow FFP to be immediately available for the management of major bleeding. The post thaw shelf life of FFP was 24 hours and the practical difficulties for hospitals implementing this guidance included an increase of FFP wastage.

Timeline of key milestones

• September 2015 - Project Team formed of all the key stakeholders
• Mid October 2015 - Component Development Laboratory (CDL) complete extensive laboratory studies on extension of post thaw shelf life
• End October 2015 - Paper to Standing Advisory Committee for Blood Components (SACBC)
• Mid November 2015 - Paper to Joint UKBTS Professional Advisory Committee (JPAC)
• January 2016 - JPAC approve post thaw extension of FFP for unexpected major haemorrhage (MH)
• February 2016 - Communication sent to hospitals about the work underway within NHSBT related to the extension of the post-thaw expiry of FFP for use in the treatment of MH
• March 2016 - Change Notification issued on to the Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services in the UK (8th Edition). Change Notification No. 16 – 2016 related to Fresh Frozen Plasma, Leucocyte Depleted and detailed the change of post thaw shelf life from 24 to 120 hours for MH
• March 2016 - NHSBT implement revised label for FFP detailing post thaw change

The FFP wastage data from hospitals pre and post implementation

• The red line on the graph shows the massive decrease in wastage of FFP when the post thaw shelf life change was implemented
• This massive decrease in wastage of FFP equates to ~£90,000 saving per year to hospitals

The Project Team

This project was lead by the Manufacturing Development Team (MDT). The members of the project team were from, MDT, clinical, CDL, Operations, Customer services, Quality, finance, Integrated Supply Planning. The team members were Dave Edmondson, Fran Gill, Rebecca Cardigan, Lucy Backholer, Laura Green, Heidi Doughty, Shubha Allard, Alastair Hunter, Graham Walters, Andy Fincham, Steve Moore, Sarah Raymond, Simon Procter, Lucy Osmond, Kirk Beard, Claire Williams.

The voice of the customer

Jonathan Wallis FRCP(UK), FRCPath is the Chair of the National Blood Transfusion Committee and Consultant Haematologist at Freeman Hospital, Newcastle. Jonathan said “5 day plasma has revolutionised our care”.

Conclusions and Benefits

As the voice of the customer shows this implementation has had massive benefits for hospitals.
This is a world class example of what can be achieved when all the stakeholders both internal and external to NHSBT work together for a common goal. This work could not have been completed without the hard work and dedication of staff from across the organisation.