

Senior Student Assistantship (SSA) Transfusion Training Programme

Introduction

As part of Senior Student Assistantship (SSA) for final year medical students at Cardiff and Swansea University Medical Schools, a transfusion training programme is delivered for every student in Wales.

It is designed to prepare the students for key challenges in transfusion practice that they will face when they start working in their foundation programme. It will equip them with the practical knowledge and understanding to support them in safely, appropriately and effectively managing patients at various points in the transfusion process. This will consolidate their theoretical knowledge enabling them to practice competently.

The content delivered represents best, safe practice in transfusion. The students should follow this practice as far as possible (in the case of pre-transfusion sampling they must follow it).

The training programme is made up of five 'stations' – the aims and objectives for each of these learning interactions are detailed below.

Aims and objectives

The three fundamental principles for safe transfusion practice

Aim: To enable the students to apply the 3 fundamental principles to their own practice - correct positive patient identification, appropriate communication, complete and relevant documentation

Learning objectives: The student should be able to:

1. Identify the occasions in the film when each of the 3 principles was not followed
2. Discuss potential repercussions of these failures

Transfusion *Play Your Cards Right*

Aim: To provide the students with an appreciation of the processes used in the hospital transfusion laboratory and the potential challenges in providing safe blood components in a timely manner appropriate to the urgency of request

Learning objective: The students should be able to:

1. State pre-transfusion sample labelling requirements and demonstrate awareness of sample labelling 'zero tolerance' policies
2. Explain historical Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) / IT transfusion data and the need for ABO confirmatory check samples
3. Explain the term 'Wrong Blood in Tube (WBIT)' and observe how WBIT may or may not be detected at various points in the transfusion process
4. Recognise their responsibility in providing adequate clinical history and identifying special requirements as part of the transfusion request
5. Recognise the possible causes of delay in provision of blood components such as phenotyping requirements or antibody investigation

Pre-transfusion sample taking

Aim: To ensure all students perform pre-transfusion sample taking safely, in relation to correct patient identification, communication and documentation.

Learning objective: The student should be able to:

1. Correctly identify the patient, label a pre-transfusion blood sample, and complete the All Wales Transfusion Request form in accordance with the All Wales Pre-transfusion Blood Sample Taking competency assessment

Decision to transfuse

Aim: To enable the students to make a rationale based decision to transfuse, and produce a written authorisation for transfusion.

Learning objectives: The student should be able to:

1. Identify the sources of information which will guide the decision to transfuse
2. Discuss the indications for transfusion and consider alternatives
3. Consent the patient for transfusion
4. Complete the written authorisation for transfusion (All Wales Transfusion Record) correctly, giving consideration to appropriate dose and rate

Adverse Event

Aim: To enable the students to recognise and appropriately respond to a transfusion reaction

Learning objectives: The student should be able to:

1. Identify from the unfolding scenario and available information that a potentially serious transfusion reaction is occurring, and take appropriate action
2. State what subsequent actions they would take, and what investigations are required