

# General practice audit of preoperative anaemia

Preoperative anaemia is associated with adverse outcomes including increased morbidity and mortality, and an increased likelihood of red blood cell transfusion. Approximately 30% of patients scheduled for major elective surgery have preoperative anaemia. GPs play a central role in the identification, diagnosis and management of patients with or at risk of anaemia and iron deficiency. However, Australian data from over 12,000 patients undergoing elective gastrointestinal, orthopaedic and gynaecology procedures found that rates of assessment (4.4% vs 77.9%) and management of anaemia (81.9% vs 13.6%) and iron deficiency (81.2% vs 15.5%) in general practice was low compared to the hospital setting.

The objective of the audit is to assess primary health care uptake of iron deficiency screening and treatment for patients with planned elective major surgery.

By the end of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Screen for iron deficiency with/without anaemia in pre-operative patients due to undergo major elective surgery
2. Evaluate and interpret FBC, iron studies and CRP to assess adequacy of iron stores in pre-operative patients due to undergo major elective surgery
3. Manage pre-operative iron deficiency and anaemia in alignment with the Preoperative haemoglobin assessment and optimisation template (as per Patient Blood Management Guidelines Module 2 Preoperative)

The audit consists of two parts:

Part 1 – Demographics and awareness of preoperative anaemia guidelines and patient information.

Part 2 - Clinical audit of ten (10) patients in your practise who you have referred for elective major surgery for which substantial blood loss is anticipated.

At the conclusion of the audit a feedback report benchmarked to guidelines and other audit participants will be provided. An interactive workshop 'TransfusEd workshop for GPs: Anaemia in primary care' will occur in Melbourne on Saturday 12 October, 2019.

For further information visit: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/patient-care/speciality-diagnostics-therapeutics/blood-matters/transfusion-audits>



Please contact Blood Matters with any queries, on 03 9694 0102 or email [bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au](mailto:bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au)