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Patient Blood Management – from Overseas to Local Practices

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Patient Blood Management – Results from Australia and Leading Centres around the World*Hofmann A**School of Surgery Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Western Australia, Australia*

From 2008 to 2012 the world's largest Patient Blood Management (PBM) programme was implemented under the auspices of the Western Australia (WA) Department of Health. It was designed as a quality, safe and effective initiative with resource and economic implications. The primary aim was to improve medical and surgical patient outcomes while achieving significant cost savings by applying PBM principles.

The programme results were shown in a retrospective observational study including all emergency and elective adult acute-care multi-day stay inpatient admissions (n=605,046) to the four major WA adult tertiary-care hospitals between July 2008 and June 2014. These hospitals perform majority of high-complexity procedures in the state including major trauma, burns, and obstetrics referral services. Comparing final year with baseline, patient outcomes improved significantly: In-hospital mortality was reduced by 28% (95% CI, 0.67 – 0.77; $P<0.001$), infection by 21% (95% CI, 0.73 – 0.86; $P<0.001$), AMI/Stroke by 31% (95% CI, 0.58 – 0.82; $P<0.001$), and average hospital length of stay by 15% (95% CI, 0.84 – 0.87; $P<0.001$). At the same time, blood product utilisation was reduced by 41% with product acquisition cost savings of AUD18.5 million and estimated activity-based cost savings of AUD80 – 100 million¹. Meanwhile, the Australian Commission on Quality and Safety in Health Care made PBM a national priority and the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards included PBM in their system.

PBM programmes around the world are showing similarly good results in terms of outcomes and resource utilisation^{2,3}. Following the 2010 World Health Assembly Resolution 63.124, the European Commission is now also recommending the implementation of PBM as a standard of care^{5,6}. On a global scale, the implementation of PBM has the potential to improve morbidity and mortality for millions while saving health systems well above 100 billion dollars annually.