Blood transfusions in the acute medical setting over a 3 year period

Aims
To carry out an observational audit reviewing the role of blood transfusions in the acute medical setting in light of the increased availability of iron infusions and planned day case transfusions.

Methods

- The hospital IT department was helped collate a list of patient details from the acute medical take with one of the following coded diagnoses between 2014-2016:
  - Anaemia
  - Menorrhagia
  - GI bleeding
- Surgical trauma cases were excluded at this juncture
- Of the cases identified, online patient discharge summaries were reviewed to ascertain whether patients received blood transfusions during the admission
- Patient prescription charts were then reviewed to determine the amount of packed red cells were administered during the admission

Results

- A total of 3423 patients were identified using the methods outlined above.
- Of these patients, those that were admitted as a day case, and those that did not receive a transfusion, were excluded.
- After these exclusions, 88 patients were identified as having received blood transfusions during their admission.
- The overall number of units of packed red cells received by these patients in 2014, 2015, and 2016 respectively, are shown in the graph opposite:

Discussion

- It has been demonstrated that there has been a clear reduction in the number of units of packed red cells received by patients under the care of the acute medical team over a 3 year period.
- It is postulated that this is likely due to the increased use of iron infusions, as well as the increased availability of elective day case management of patients over the past 3 years.

Further research

- Plans to audit the number of iron infusions given over the same 3 year period with the same patient cohort.
- This will allow further discussion regarding correlation between iron infusion and blood transfusion use.