Improving Communication and Team Dynamics during Obstetric Haemorrhage

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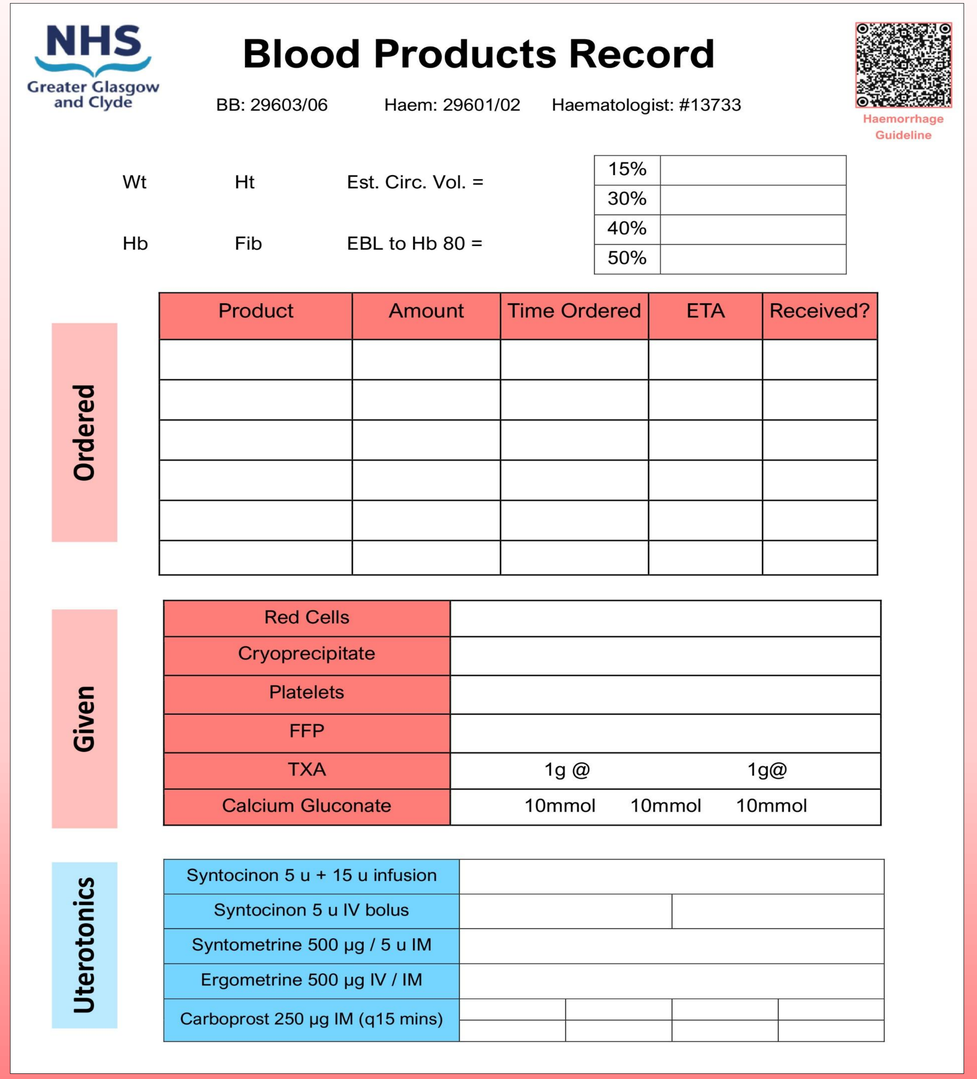
Introduction

- Obstetric haemorrhage is the most common cause of severe maternal morbidity, and mortality worldwide. Its clinical management differs from that of haemorrhage in the general population.[1]
- In 2024, we developed a wipeable/reusable poster to assist in the recording of key management interventions in major haemorrhage within our general theatres. Multi-disciplinary team (MDT) feedback was positive and our poster appeared to enhance team dynamics.[2]
- We adapted our general poster for the specific challenges of obstetric theatres (Centre Figure).
- Our aim was to determine whether our adapted poster could improve team dynamics in obstetric theatres too.

Methods

- Adaptations to our poster were based on expert opinion from obstetric anaesthetists, obstetricians and midwives within our department. This MDT approach served as our local peer review process.
- Our poster was embedded into our emergency obstetric theatres in the Princess Royal Maternity Hospital, Glasgow in 2025. Informal feedback was collected from the MDT over one year.



NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Blood Products Record

Haemorrhage Guideline

BB: 29603/06 Haem: 29601/02 Haematologist: #13733

Wt Ht Est. Circ. Vol. =

Hb Fib EBL to Hb 80 =

15%	
30%	
40%	
50%	

Ordered

Product	Amount	Time Ordered	ETA	Received?

Given

Red Cells			
Cryoprecipitate			
Platelets			
FFP			
TXA	1g @		1g@
Calcium Gluconate	10mmol	10mmol	10mmol

Uterotonics

Syntocinon 5 u + 15 u infusion				
Syntocinon 5 u IV bolus				
Syntometrine 500 µg / 5 u IM				
Ergometrine 500 µg IV / IM				
Carboprost 250 µg IM (q15 mins)				

Results

- Key poster adaptations included,
  - Aide memoires for quantifying blood loss in the context of body habitus and starting haemoglobin concentration.
  - Tables to record the administration of blood products and uterotonics.
  - Important contact details and a QR code linking to haemorrhage guidelines.
- Positive feedback highlighted the poster's role in reinforcing good practice and key management steps.
- Our poster provided a visible record for all theatre staff and positively contributed to team dynamics. This was particularly valued by non-anaesthetic members of the MDT.
- Negative feedback related to changes from established personal practice.

Discussion

- The management of obstetric haemorrhage is complex and demands effective MDT working. Clinical management differs from that of haemorrhage in the general population.
- Informal feedback demonstrated that our adapted poster improved MDT cohesion and served as a guide to clinical management in our obstetric theatres. This reduces the cognitive load on team members, which may positively contribute to patient care.

References

1) T. Drew, J.C.A. Carvalho. Major obstetric haemorrhage. BJA Education. 2022; 22(6): 238-244.

2) A. Bundy, C. Rooney, C. Henderson, S. Meredith, G. Scotland. Major haemorrhage: fluid communication to stem the flow. BJA Open. 2024; 12(1): 100321.