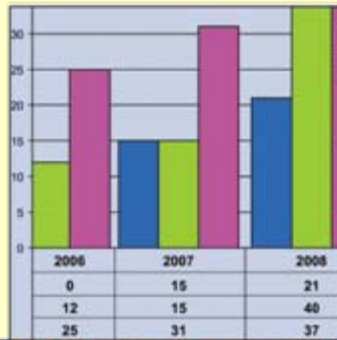


# Waste Not Want Not – Saving Platelets

Make smart choices about the costs and benefits of health services

October 2008

# 2008 NSW Health EXPO



Prepared by Julaika Palmer & Dr Julie Curtin

The Children's Hospital at Westmead

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# Aim

To reduce platelet wastage by 50% within 6 months



# Nature of the Problem

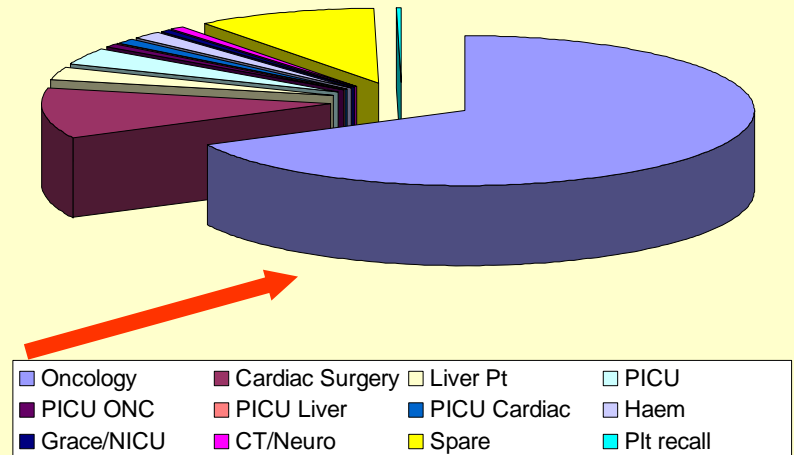
- Platelets have a short expiry of only 5 days from collection
- Platelets not transfused prior to expiry are discarded
- A culture of over-ordering of platelets in existence
  - Driven by “just in case they’re needed” approach
  - No regard to cost or wastage of unused units
- Disorganised platelet inventory management



# Extent of the Problem

- 12 month audit of platelet use:
  - Of 2667 platelet units ordered, 501 (18%) were discarded
  - 2/3 of discarded units were ordered by the oncology team
- In 06/07 discarded platelets accounted for more than \$260,000 of our limited blood budget
- Poor communication between the ward and the lab

Order Source of Discarded Units



# Strategic Importance

- Blood Bank provides an essential service to the entire hospital
- Throwing away platelets is like throwing money in the bin
- Increased pride & confidence amongst staff, and respect for the entire Blood Bank service





# Planning & Implementing Solutions

## Blood Bank / Haematology

### Issues Identified

- Confusing platelet inventory
- System not conducive to recognised which plts may be reallocated
- Certain units difficult to reassign
  - CMV +ve
  - Rarer blood groups (AB/B)
- Lack of awareness of costs of plts
- Impact of FBC turn-around-times

Shelf	Patient Name	Day of Use	Group	Plate Type	Expiry	CMV Neg
10F						
1	PAMELA PLUMMET	TH	O Pos	Pool	17/10	✓
2	BILLY BANANIA			Pool		
-	HANA HEMET	Th	O-Pos	Pool	17/10	✓
4	GRANGE OMY					
5	GRABAN APPLE	Th	O-Pos	Pool	17/10	✓
6						
7		Th	O-Pos	Pool	19/10	✓
8	NEIL NEG					
9	BILLY PARTON					
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17	ARTSY POS					
18						
20						
21						

# Planning & Implementing Solutions

## Blood Bank / Haematology



## Strategies Implemented

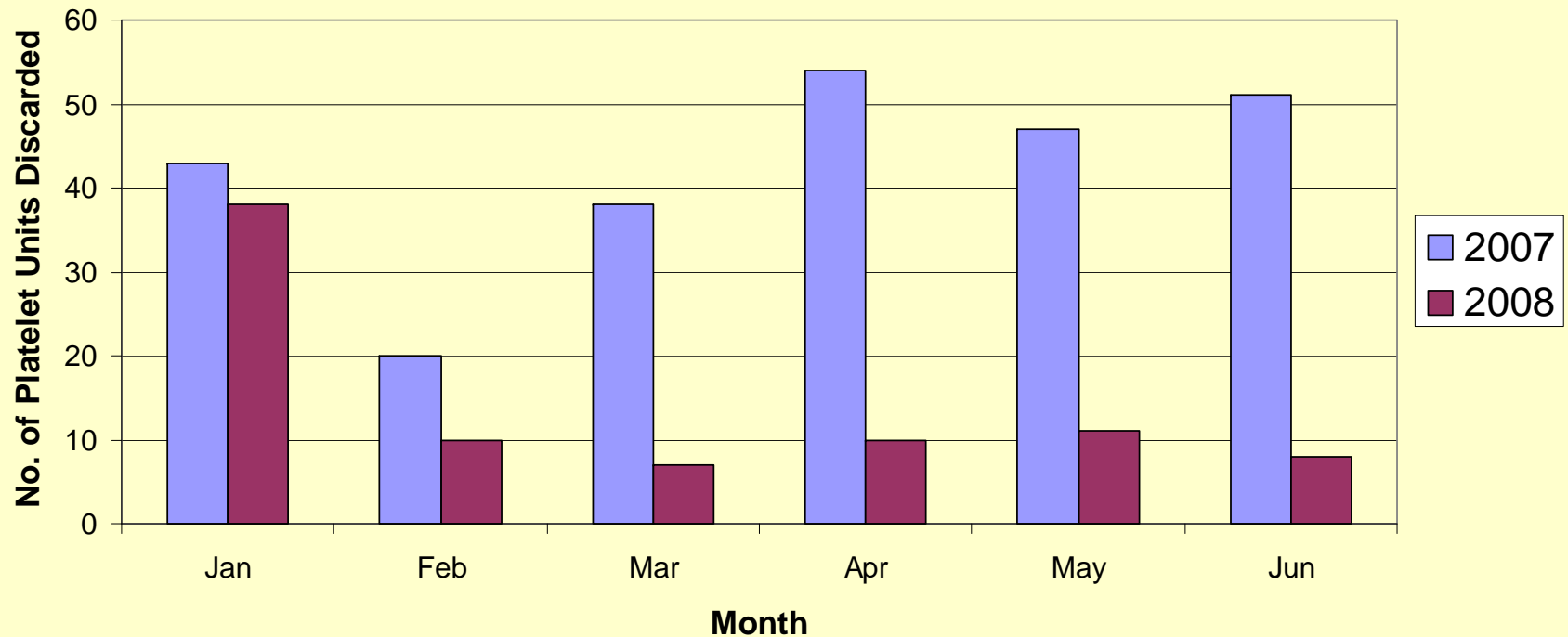
- Reorganisation of platelet inventory
- Requesting CMV Neg units from ARCBS
- Policy of cross-grouping implemented
- Lab staff proactive in reallocation of plts

# Outcomes & Evaluation

- Data collected between 1 January – 30 June 2008
  - 1208 units of platelets ordered
  - 84 units discarded
  - Average discard of 14 units/ month or 6.9% wastage
  - **Reduction of 65% in platelet wastage**
- Projected cost saving of ~\$200,000 per annum

# Outcomes & Evaluation

## Platelet discards 2007 v's 2008



# Sustaining Change

- Platelet inventory management and cross-grouping policies are now standard practice in blood bank
- Ongoing use of introduced communication forms
- Ongoing training of staff
- Continued monthly monitoring of wastage through target chart

# Lessons Learned

- Making staff aware of the problem is an important step towards change
  - Awareness of costs of platelets
  - Awareness of numbers of platelets being discarded
- Co-ordinated strategies and multi-pronged approaches are often required to address problems

# Future Scope

- Template for application to other areas of waste such as Red cell concentrates
- Communication measures & cross-grouping could be applied to other AHS blood services

# Acknowledgements

## Team Members

Julie Palmer (Transfusion CNE)

Julie Curtin (Head Haematology)

Siobhan Cross (Oncology Fellow)

Marguerite Ogg (Senior Scientific Officer,  
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