8. Patient Blood Management (PBM):

An important initiative established by Dr Renate Zilkens, Mr Aqif Mukhtar and Professor Semmens was gaining State Health Research Council (SHRC) funding to support the Patient Blood Management Project (PBM). A pilot study to evaluate a PBM programme in WA, with a particular focus on reducing blood use, identified cost savings and improved patient outcomes. A PBM database for monitoring blood use in WA hospitals has been developed and data on blood usage is fed back to physicians at two pilot hospital sites, Fremantle hospital and Sir Charles Gardiner hospital, as part of a multipronged approach to encourage a change in practice. The study demonstrated that significant efficiencies in blood usage can be achieved with reductions in morbidity, mortality and hospital length of stay and therefore, overall costs. A second phase of the program of research is led by Professor John Olynyk and Dr Katrina Spilsbury and is funded by the Department of Health (WA) as a Targeted Research Grant.

The study will examine the extent to which a PBM programme can deliver efficiencies and cost savings to WA Health through (i) a reduction in the inappropriate use of blood products and resultant cost savings; (ii) a reduction in pre- and post-transfusion tests from improved blood prescription and resultant cost savings; (iii) an improvement in patient outcomes from the avoidance of transfusion associated adverse events; and (iv) cost savings through a reduction in hospital bed days relating to transfusion associated adverse events.

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