



THE STORY OF A BLOOD BAG

A great deal of important information is carried by a blood product label. Critical information such as blood groups, product description and expiration date must be clearly understood by medical staff responsible for transfusing the product. The data should be easily captured by a computer system.

The International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) developed a new safe international quality coding system to label blood products based on 128 symbology. It is a standard that provides for a globally unique donation numbering system, internationally standardized product definitions and standard data structures for bar coding and data interchange. The quality system, called ISBT 128, will support other data capture technologies in the future.

All the blood banks in Norway use ISBT 128. We started four years ago at our hospital. It has been a success from the very beginning. Because all the blood products are labeled with ISBT 128, it is easy to import from other blood banks, even if they are using different computer systems.

At our hospital we are using the "flag codes" to scan every step of the production line. We are able to track a blood product from the actual donor to the intended patient by pretransfusion testing, such as "type and screen" and computerized crossmatch.

Even the staff collecting the blood products from the inventory, must identify themselves and the products they collect. The difficulties, however, is to secure the transfusion of the "right blood" to the "right patient". One of our hospitals utilizes assigned code affixed to the patients identification band. ISBT 128 has created a special code to be used on a wrist band (not on the charts or elsewhere). We aim to prevent mistransfusion by firstly scanning the wristband when collecting blood samples for pretransfusion testing and subsequently by scanning it to sertify that the "right blood" is transfused to the "right patient". Our hand held scanners are programmed to give a warning signal if "wrong" blood products are issued. We hope to avoid fatal transfusions in the future and that the story of a blood bag can be successfully traced from the donor to the "right patient".

CONTACT DETAILS

AANDAHL GERD SELSET

Email: gerd.aandahl@ahus.no Tel: +47 67 92 84 01



NAFSTAD KJERSTI

Email: kjersti.nafstad@ahus.no Tel: +47 67 92 84 12

KNUTSEN TERESA RISOPATRON

Email: teresa.knutsen@ahus.no Tel: +47 67 92 84 10



Online: http://www.ahus.no













