Structured observations

**Need for common understanding of concepts (and definitions)**

- Include blood components & fractionated products
- Some definitions based around (avoidance of) red cell transfusion
- Hospital and other settings (e.g., general practice)
- Rational/optimal/appropriate clinical use – is it same as PBM?
- Is PBM part of the universe of overall transfusion ("Blood management and Patient management should not be conflicting concepts")
- How to describe the patients who may (not) need transfusion
- Measures to minimise need for transfusion
- Most of the elements already set out in WHO Aide-Memoire on 'Clinical Use of Blood' and WHO Aide-Memoire on 'Clinical Transfusion Process and Patient Safety'
- Patient-centred/patient-focussed approach
- Patient involvement in care and decision-making
  - Informed consent
  - Patient education
- Role of policy, guidelines, legislation, regulation and accreditation in promoting best practice at a national, regional, institutional level
- Leadership (governmental, administrative, clinical professional – clinical champions)
- Delineation of responsibilities (administrative, clinical and others)
- Clinical governance, role of Hospital Transfusion Committees, other stakeholders
- Importance of multidisciplinary teams in managing patients
  - Nurses and midwives
  - Doctors (family medical practitioners etc)
  - Transfusion lab scientists/technicians
  - Administrators and Pharmacists
- Role of transfusion practitioner in hospital setting
  - Training in Quality Management including clinical audit
- Education for clinical staff (content, delivery, assessment)
- Awareness of and access to/funding of therapies including “other modalities to transfusion”
• Sources of information: research (randomized control trials (RCT) to registries), haemovigilance, look back or clinical audits
• Evidence base (needs developing) and awareness of available evidence and translation into practice
• Sharing ideas, materials and results
• Measuring results (what, how, standardisation (comparability), what to do with the data, taking action)
• Benchmarking – between clinicians, units, institutions
• Links with broader patient safety initiatives (patient identification, informed consent)
• Resources
  - People (time, authority, expectations)
  - Information Technology (data management and data linkage)
  - Funds: may be barrier but ultimate investment, enablers
• Capacity building: infrastructure, personnel, educational programmes and materials (all levels – under graduation to post graduation)

**Issues common to all**
• Evidence base, awareness and application
• Engagement of clinical staff
• Communication and education
• Personnel – trained, dedicated resource
• Measurement of outcomes and sources of data
• Haemovigilance systems and adverse reactions - monitoring for transfusion and alternatives
• Funds

**Particular issues identified by developing countries**
• Still major focus on need for adequate supplies of safe blood, variable rates of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation
• Need for improved disease prevention and control of conditions, which can result in transfusion if not managed
• Burden of disease (HIV/malarial/nutritional anaemia, haemoglobinopathies, obstetrics, trauma) vs. haematology/oncology
• Prevention of unnecessary transfusions especially where supplies are limited /unsafe
• Access to blood component therapy vs. whole blood
• Blood cold chain management
• Access to laboratory support especially diagnostics
• Availability of trained staff
• Need for coordinated transfusion service structures at country level and support within hospitals
• Access to educational material for clinical staff generally, and targeted/appropriate to the local situation