### **Enhancing Surgical PBM Outcomes:**

# A Compliance Audit on Tranexamic Acid Use Glouce and Strategic Action Planning in line with

## the Infected Blood Inquiry



# Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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#### Introduction

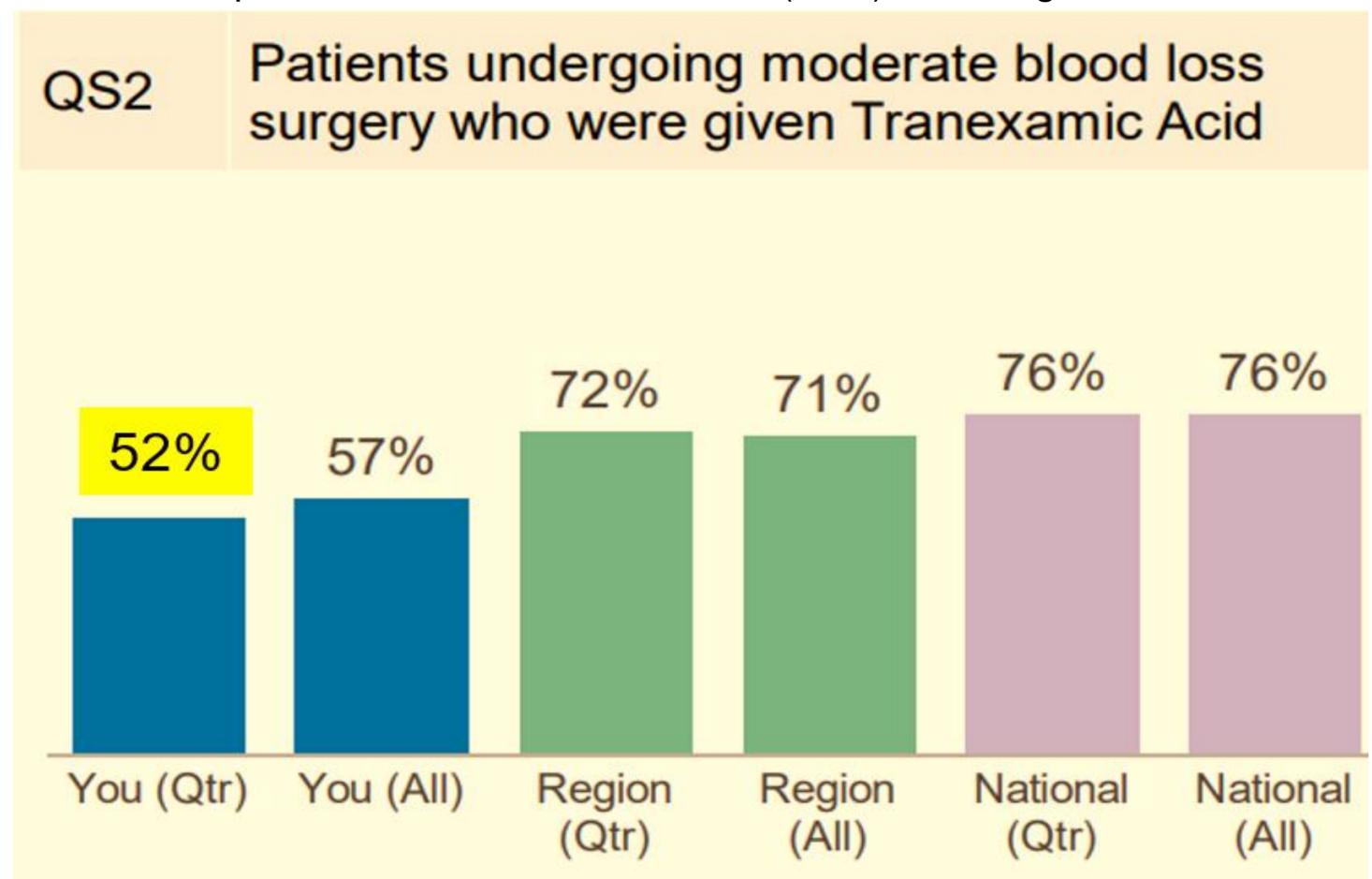
Tranexamic Acid (TXA) is an antifibrinolytic drug that reduces bleeding by inhibiting the proteolysis of fibrin blood clots by plasmin<sup>1</sup>. The POISE-3 trial (2022)<sup>3</sup> showed TXA reduces major bleeding by 25%. NICE QS138 (2016)<sup>2</sup> recommends TXA for adults undergoing surgery with anticipated blood loss >500ml, reducing risks to patients. Infected Blood Inquiry (IBI) Recommendation 7 (2024)<sup>4</sup> reinforces TXA use in surgical protocols, calling for checklist integration, Trust Board oversight, and annual compliance reporting. This study assessed TXA use in elective surgeries with expected moderate blood loss (>500ml). Results will guide the Hospital Transfusion Committee (HTC) compliance review and support targeted and strategic improvements.

#### Methods

Randomised patients were selected from elective surgical lists retrospectively between Apr–Dec 2023 and Jul–Sep 2024 with data collected via a proforma using patient notes and uploaded to the Quality Insights tool<sup>5</sup>. Findings, alongside IBI recommendations, informed the HTC's strategic plan.

#### Results

A total of 75 patients were included with 39 (52%) receiving TXA.



**Figure 1.** Quality Insights data, comparing local compliance with QS138 standard 2 (QS2) to regional (South West England Regional Transfusion Committee) and national data

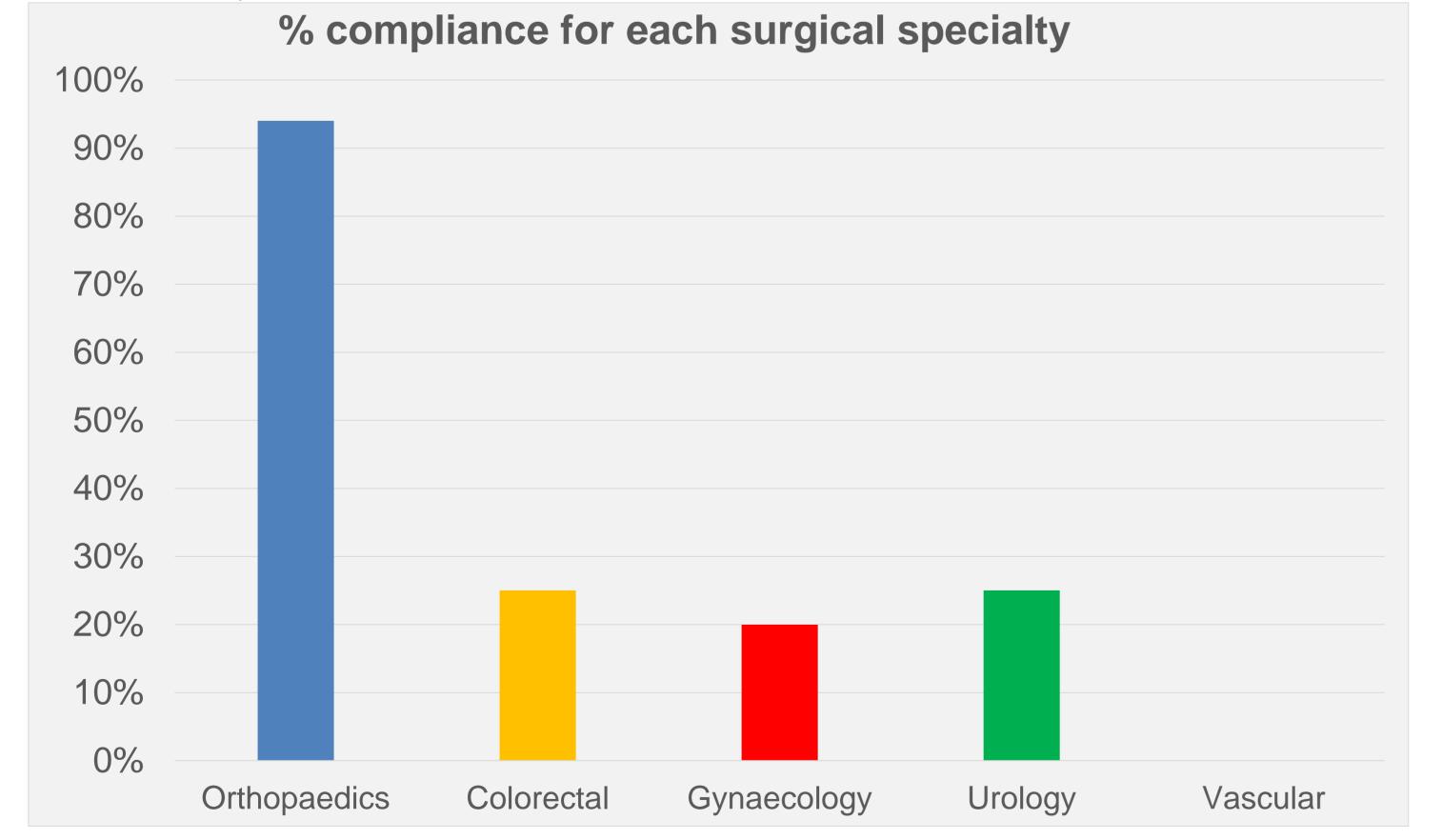
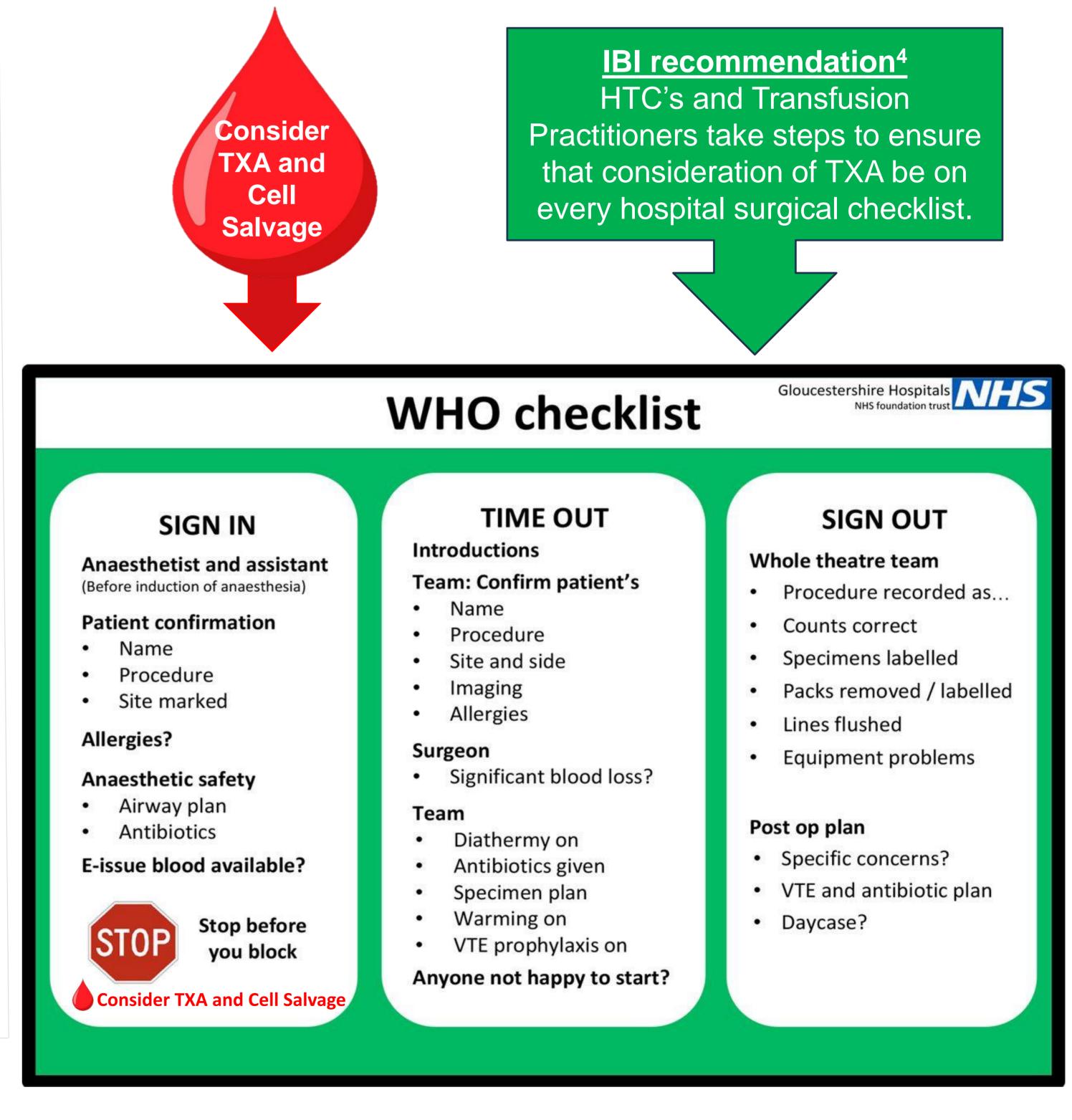


Figure 2. Compliance in TXA use by surgical specialty

#### Discussion

Audit results revealed 52% compliance with QS138 standard 2. Compliance varied considerably across surgical specialties. Based on these findings and the IBI recommendations, the HTC developed a local action plan:

- ✓ Enhance digital recording: Planned introduction of a prompt "Has TXA been given?" in the Electronic Patient Record Operation Note. Introduce TXA to the Anaesthetists electronic 'order panel' of medications. This will streamline future audits and provide data for trust board reporting without relying on paper notes.
- ✓ Educate specialties: A literature review on TXA, backed by HTC and IBI recommendations, will be presented to surgical teams. Through local governance meetings, the aim is to discover reasons for non-compliance and support a multidisciplinary effort to address specialty-specific barriers.
- ✓ Add TXA to the surgical checklist: An addendum will be added to the WHO checklist and a 'Blood Conservation' prompt on the surgical team brief.



#### Conclusion

Gaps in compliance with this PBM standard were identified prompting the development of a strategic action plan aligned with IBI recommendations. This plan aims to expand the use of this cost-effective drug<sup>1</sup>, particularly important given current national blood shortages and the IBI's recommendations. Barriers and local variations must be addressed to scale up TXA use in elective surgery. This is essential to enhancing surgical PBM practices, and ultimately patient safety.

#### References

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- 4. Infected Blood Inquiry. The report (2024)
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