

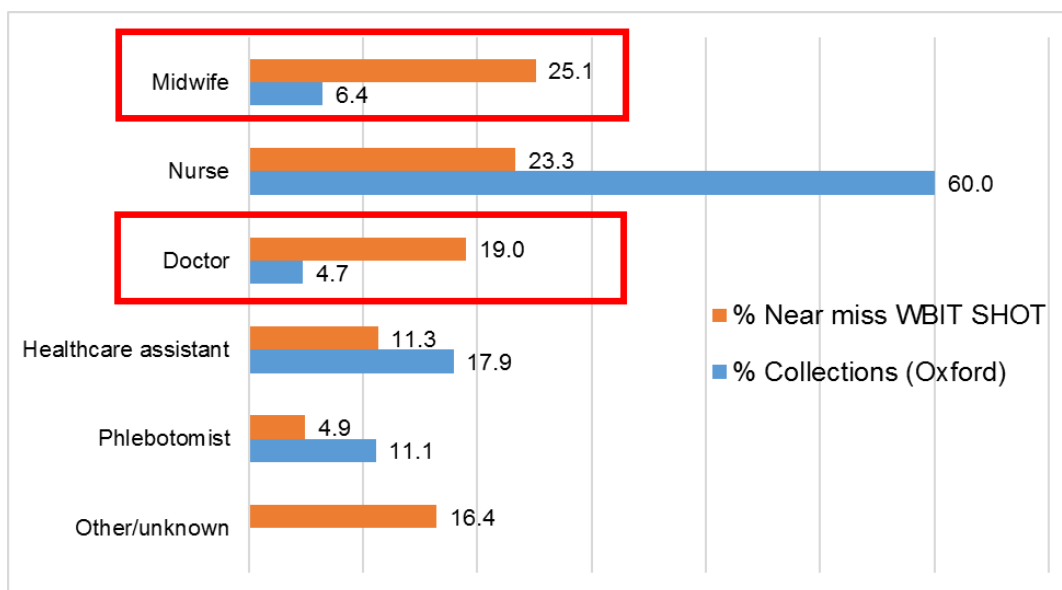
2020 Annual SHOT Report – Supplementary information

Chapter 13a: Near Miss Wrong Blood in Tube

Who takes the samples?

There is a paucity of information at a national level regarding the staff groups involved in taking transfusion samples. Previous SHOT reports have included data of staff groups taken from the Oxford Hospitals group, but this may not be truly representative of the national situation. This year data is also included from the Southampton Hospitals. Understanding patterns of errors in different clinical situations will help identify targeted interventions to improve practice. In 586/673 (87.1%) cases the member of staff taking the blood sample was identified. The majority were collected by midwives or nurses 326/673 (48.4%) and 128/673 (19.0%) by medical staff. Foundation year doctors were the largest group of medical staff involved in wrong blood in tube WBIT events. Comparison with Oxford data shows that midwives and doctors were overrepresented in WBIT as has been demonstrated each year. Oxford data cover a population of 800,000 and about 7500 deliveries each year. Data from Southampton Hospitals (selected as they use vein-to-vein electronic tracking making denominator data available) over a two-month period demonstrated that 87.8% of samples are taken by phlebotomists (62.7%) and registered nurses (25.1%). The phlebotomy service is provided for the maternity service for the transfusion samples and very few samples are taken by midwives (less than 1%) with a similar number of deliveries each year, 6000. This demonstrates that there are variable practices in different hospitals. (With thanks to Julie Staves, Oxford and Kerry Dowling, Southampton).

Figure 13a.3: Staff groups responsible for taking WBIT samples reported to SHOT (n=673) compared with staff groups who take transfusion samples in the Oxford Hospitals group (n=16,486) November 2020 to January 2021. Numbers are %



Note: comparison of data is limited as the denominator data is taken from a single organisation and practices may vary elsewhere.