

IronMan SOP (Version 1)

8th April 2021

This document has been created to provide an overview of the planned process for the running of this project and to help answer any questions that may arise.

Phase 1

This phase of the project is primarily focused on the collecting of initial information about perioperative anaemia pathways at different hospital trusts in the region. It aims to answer specific questions about current practices in order to detect commonalities and differences in how this problem is approached.

Project Group Formation

The initial steps of the phase will involve the establishment of the **IronMan project group**. This will be modelled on the NWRAG constitution outline for regional project groups, similar to previous projects.

To summarise, the project group has several roles:

- Regional Project Lead
- Steering Committee
- Local Site Project Lead
- Local Site Project Investigator
- Local Site Consultant Link

Regional Project Lead

They are responsible for:

- Composing the trial protocol
- Managing and coordinating the project across the region
- Collating and analysing the data
- Presenting the results of the study
- Writing and submitting any subsequent articles for presentation
- Liaising with R&D departments (where applicable)
- Seeking ethics approval (where applicable)

The regional project lead for IronMan is Dr Tom Heaton.

Steering Committee

They are responsible for:

- Providing advice on trial development and organisation
- Assisting with local site organisation/data collection
- Guidance on data analysis
- Assisting with publication and presentation of the results

The steering committee for IronMan are: Dr Tom Heaton, Dr Hannah Greenlee, Dr David Perry, Dr Andy Martin, Dr Gareth Kitchen.

Local Site Project Lead

- Liaising with local audit/R&D departments (where applicable)
- Promoting projects at local site
- Organising local project implementation
- Presenting the results locally (and potential involvement in local responses)
- Assisting with local data collection

Local site project leads will be recruited from interested trainees in the Northwest using email and social media promotion.

A list of the local site leads will be available on the project homepage to enable interested trainees to find their local contact.

Local Site Project Investigator

- Assisting with local data collection
- Participating in presentation of results (and potential involvement in local responses)

Local Site Consultant Link

- Providing guidance and support for local delivery of project
- Assisting the Local Site Project Lead with their role

If you are the local site lead you will therefore be responsible for recruiting and organising other members of the local team. This will be up to yourself to determine and we encourage each site to have a large degree of autonomy to best respond to the differences between hospitals across the region. We would however recommend that every site has a consultant link to help trainees better understand the particular practices at that site.

Phase 1 Data Collection

Once the local investigator team is set up the data collection stage can begin. The data collection process for phase 1 will be relatively straightforward requiring completion of a single questionnaire per hospital trust. This will be accessed through a Google Forms link which will be emailed to the local site project lead. It will be the local lead who will be responsible for completing this.

The questions in this all relate to the perioperative management of anaemia in patients undergoing **elective** surgery at that trust. Some of these may be immediately answerable to the local lead but it is envisaged that there will be a number of questions that require some research and gathering of information from local resources.

As such, we would suggest the following approach to completing the questionnaire:

1. Print off list of questions from questionnaire (document available from project homepage on NWRAG website)
2. Discuss questions with local consultant link to establish best resources for answering them (which may simply be that consultant)
3. Utilise local resources to answer questions. We envisage that these will include:
 - a. Trust intranet
 - b. Local policy documents (non-intranet sources)
 - c. Pre-operative assessment consultant lead

- d. Pre-operative assessment nursing staff
4. Submit answers through emailed Google Forms link

Results

Once all participating sites have submitted their responses the regional project team will analyse the results. We will create a regional summary of the information and provide these back to each local site lead. This will allow sites to compare their current practice against regional trends and hopefully allow identification of themes that can guide future work. Of greatest relevance, the information will also allow adaptation of the Phase 2 IronMan protocol to be more targeted which will aim to develop these opportunities. This will be completed as quickly as possible.

Phase 2 & Phase 3

The SOP for phases 2 and 3 will be finalised following the completion of phase 1. These will subsequently be published in an updated project SOP.

Questions

There will undoubtedly be questions that have not been fully answered in this document or related documents on the NWRAG website.

If this is the case, please feel encouraged to contact the NWRAG project team.

The best method will be through the project lead: tomheaton@doctors.org.uk

We will subsequently update the project documents with frequently asked questions.