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Letter to the editor

Unexpected increase of the compliance rate of transfusion requisition form after the COVID-19 outbreak



Dear sir,

As the world-wide spreading of COVID-19, health system all over the world has been confronting with challenges in the management of patients. During this particular period, the impact of COVID-19 can be subtle in some area, such as the compliance rate of transfusion requisition form being observed in our hospital.

Transfusion request is the hinge to ensure safety of transfusion. According to the Chinese specification for clinical transfusion technology [1], the transfusion requisition must include the following essential factors: patient core identifiers, doctors' name, current diagnosis, medical history, clear unambiguous reasons for the request, and transfusion requisitions slips must be signed by healthcare personnel to confirm the type of blood component and the volume of units required. Our hospital has been committing to improve the compliance of requisition for several years. After introduced FOCUS-PDCA model and Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA) [2,3], the compliance rose to more than 80% in last year, yet hard to be further increased.

Unexpectedly, monitored in February 2020, a sudden increase of compliance rate was up to 97% and it remaining above 95% till now (Fig. 1), which was only 82.7% in last year. During this period, no

new method has been implemented, but the outbreak of COVID-19. In China, COVID-19 was first reported in Wuhan, Hubei, in December 2019. Since then, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China issued several documents about COVID-19 diagnosis and treatments, as well as the measures of biosafety protection. Subsequently, our hospital issued the "Guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19" and "Biosafety guide for COVID-19" in January 2020 and the actions were taken immediately, such as enhancing awareness about COVID-19, strengthening training on the correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE), et al.

Through the inquiry of the hospital information system (HIS), we found that the average time of every patient from the initiation of the transfusion application online to the completion and delivery of the specimen was extended in this year. Our transfusion requisition can be divided into five steps: fill in the application online, patient confirmation, specimen collection, signature and send application. During these steps, significantly influence was found in patient confirmation, specimen collection and signature through the interview. Due to repeatedly examine to the requisition and complete information at the same time as strengthen the survey of COVID-19 patient, doctors spent more time on patient confirmation. Intensify disinfection procedures and biosafety protection would promote healthcare personnel more cautious during the specimen collection. In this time, hospital had strengthened the

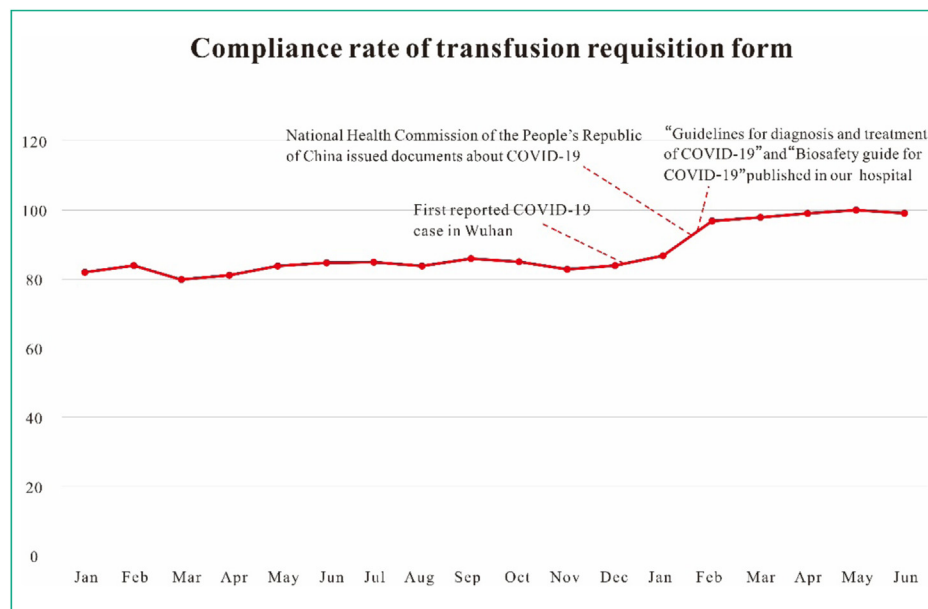


Fig. 1. Compliance rate of transfusion requisition form in January 2019 to June 2020.

tracking of patients in every step of the treatment process, and was stricter on healthcare personnel signature. In summary, although these measures aim to COVID-19 were not directly involved in the transfusion request, healthcare personnel worked more carefully and kept focus during this process, which may promote the increase of the compliance rate of transfusion requisition.

The pandemic of COVID-19 is disastrous for global public health. However, our timely and effective responses may improve the medical quality, moreover, make some progress for the public health security.

Disclosure of interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interest.

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