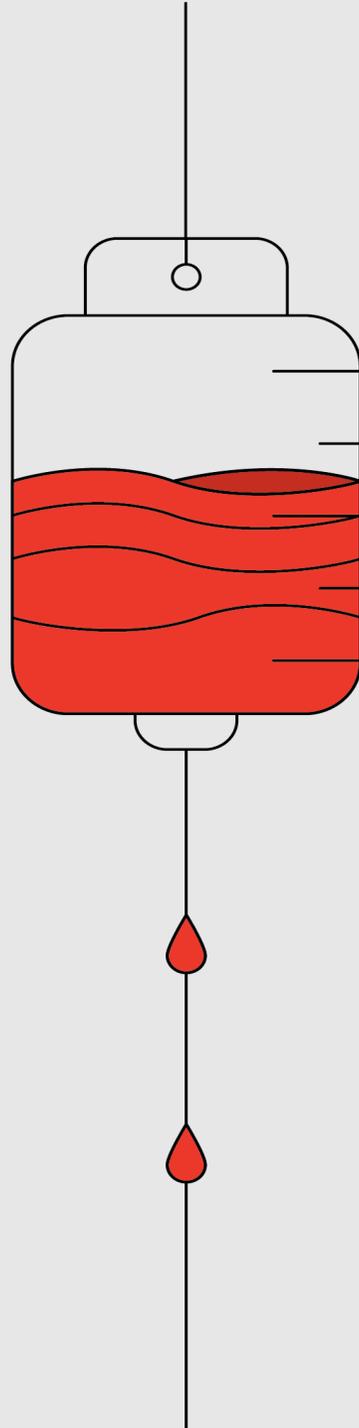




**36<sup>th</sup> South African  
NATIONAL BLOOD  
Transfusion Congress**

**22 – 25 August 2022 - Durban**

**SHAPING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**



## The South African National Blood Service Lookback Programme -

**Do South African Doctors appreciate the importance of this surveillance programme?**

**Natasha von Meyer,**

Amanda Xaba, Kalpana Gosai,  
Vangie Walker, Solomuzi Ngcobo.

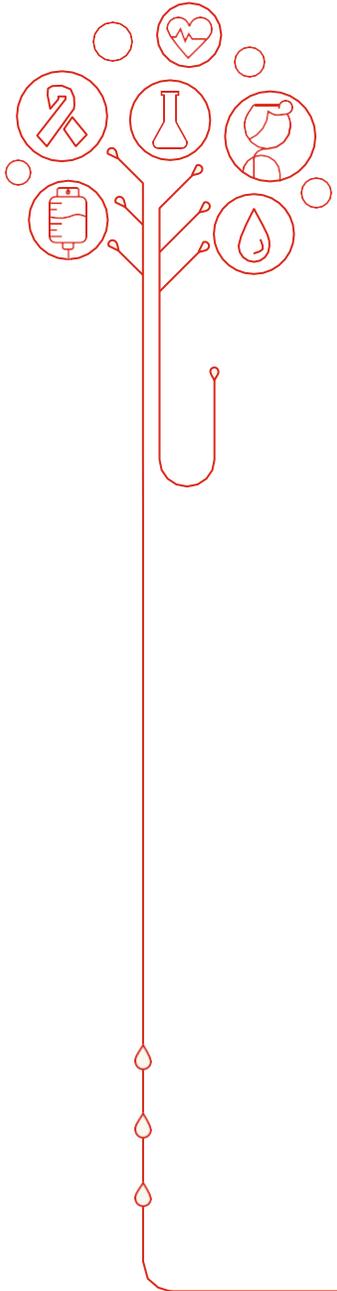
# Introduction

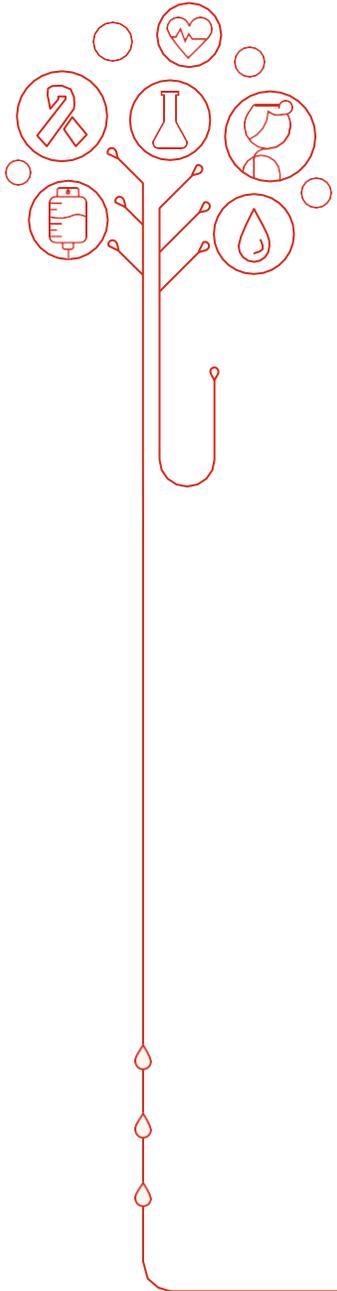


## The Lookback Programme (LBP)

- ❖ Is a surveillance tool that is part of haemovigilance with the aim to monitor the safety of the blood supply.
- ❖ Provides surveillance on all blood products issued to patients.

The aim of the LBP is to ensure that all possible transfusion transmissible infections (TTI) are reported and followed up timeously.





# Introduction

The effectiveness of the Lookback Programme as a surveillance tool depends on both



External Stakeholders



Internal Stakeholders

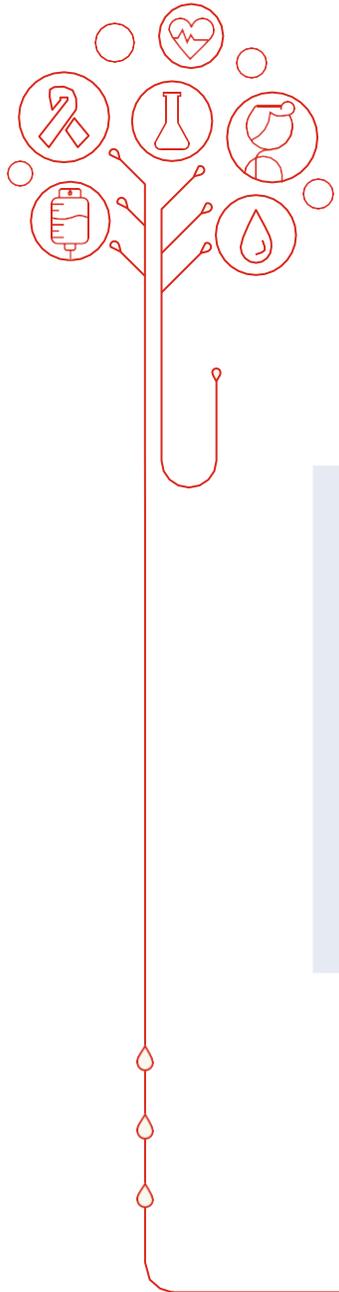


# Introduction

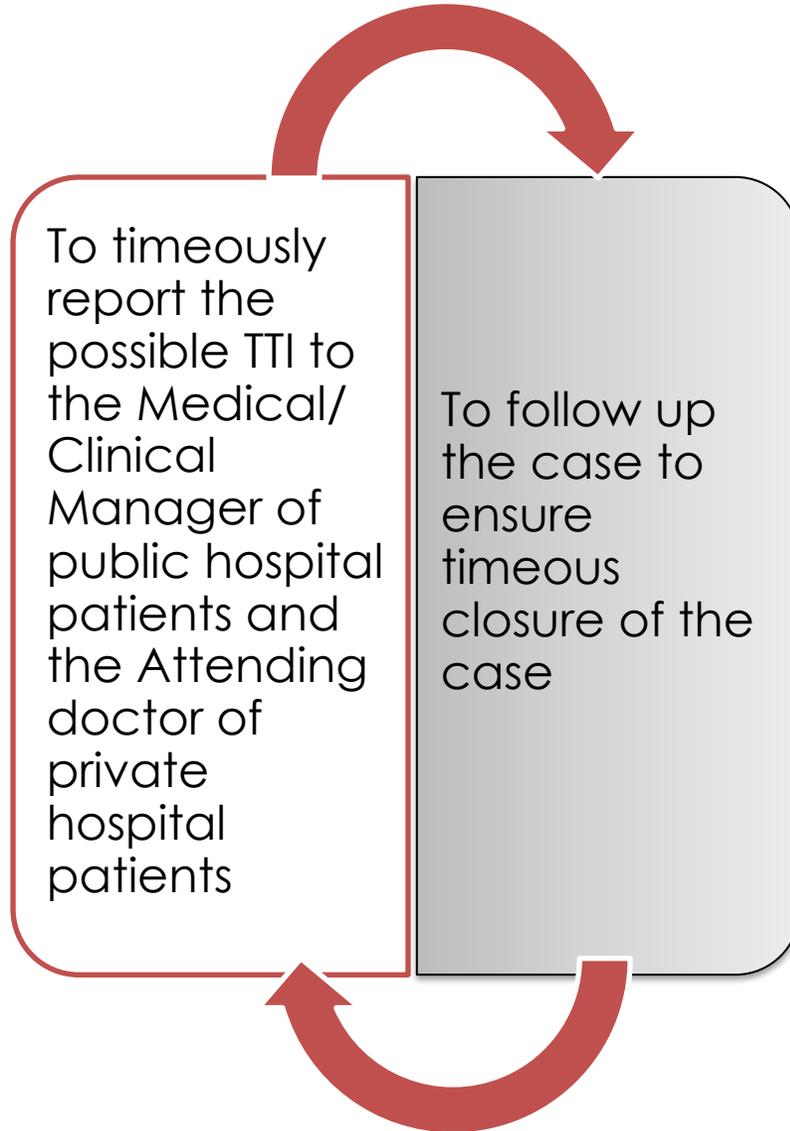
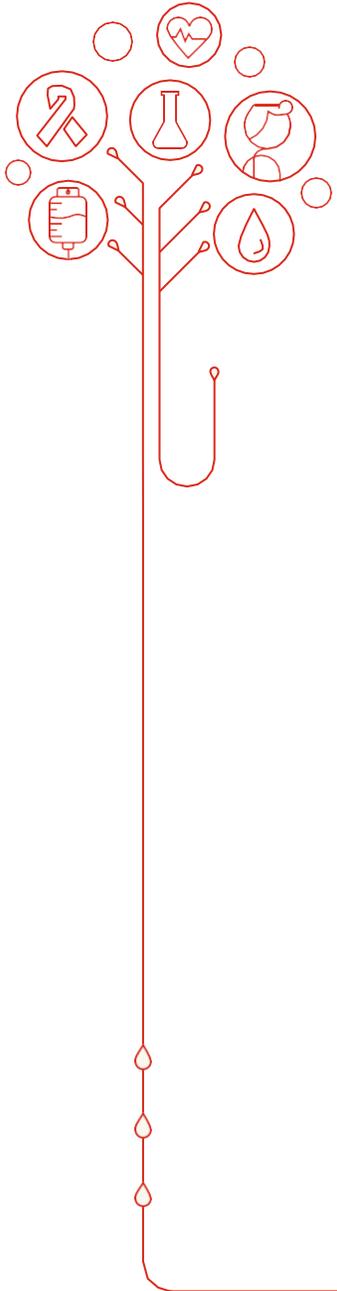
Therefore the success of the Lookback Programme is heavily reliant on clinician's participation, as they are at the forefront of patient safety.



**Clinicians**

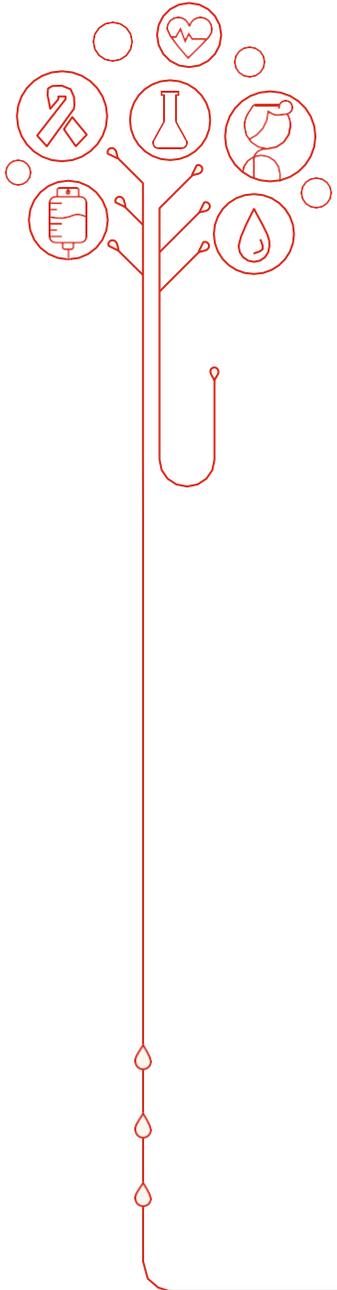
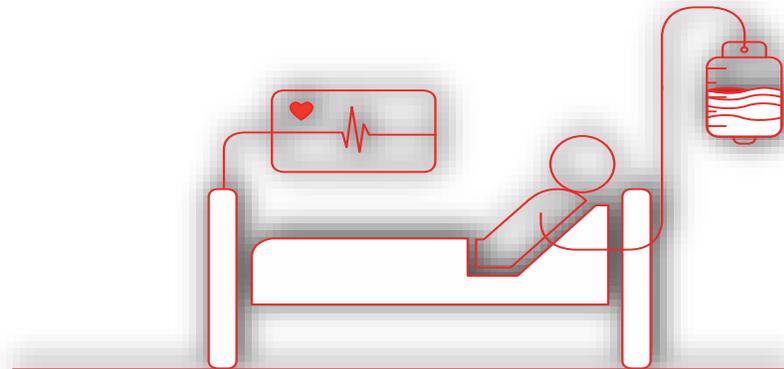


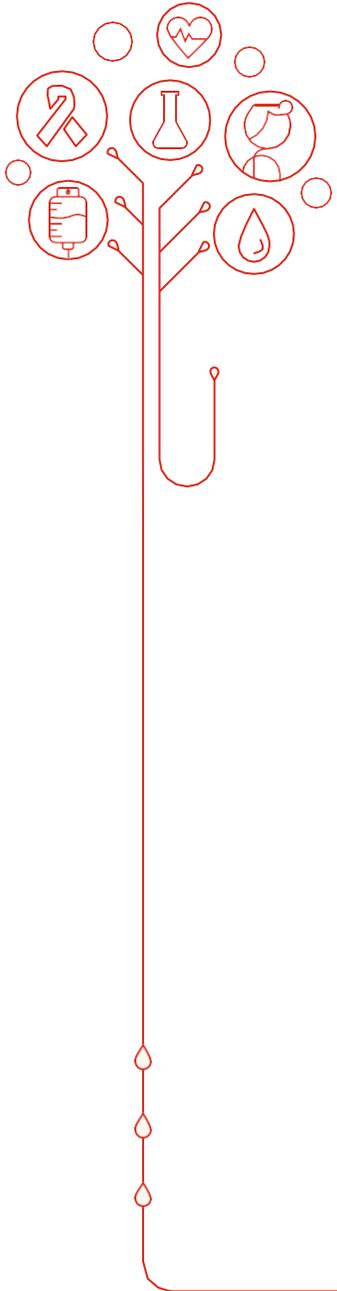
# SANBS Role in the LBP



## The Role of Clinicians in the LBP

- ❖ To trace and counsel the recipient of the blood transfusion who has been identified in the lookback investigation. (SA Clinical Guidelines)
- ❖ At the time of counselling, to obtain consent from the patient to release the results of the retest to SANBS.
- ❖ To provide patient results to SANBS so that the relevant lookback processes can take place, and the case can be concluded.



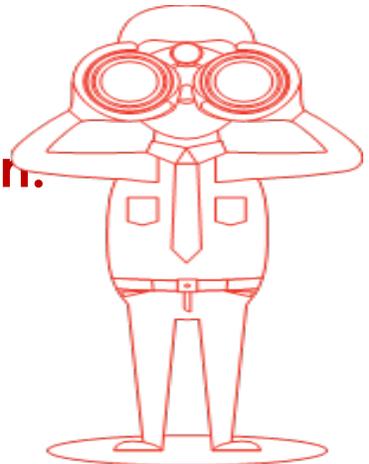


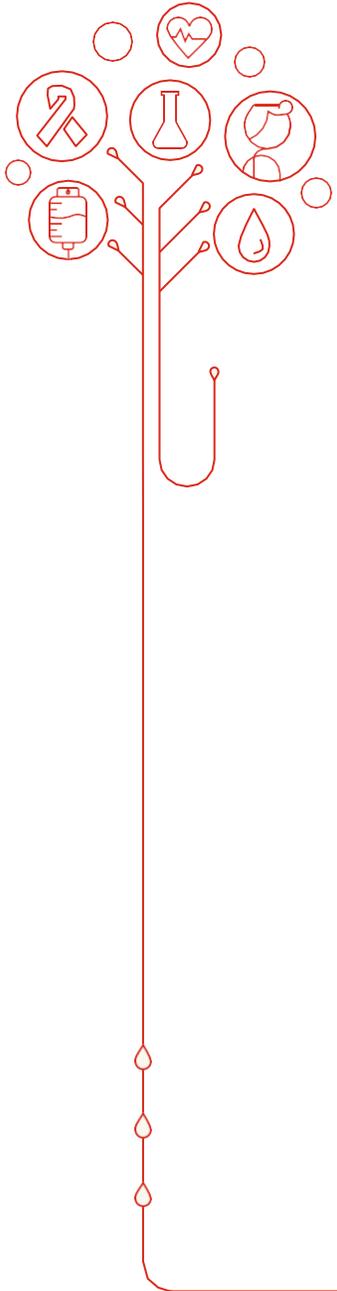
## Methodology

As a strategy to improve our services to external stakeholders, SANBS Lookback Team conducted a survey in November 2021.

- ❖ The objective of the study was to assess the awareness of South African doctors with regards to the SANBS Lookback Programme.
- ❖ The survey consisted of 10 close-ended questions with themes on:

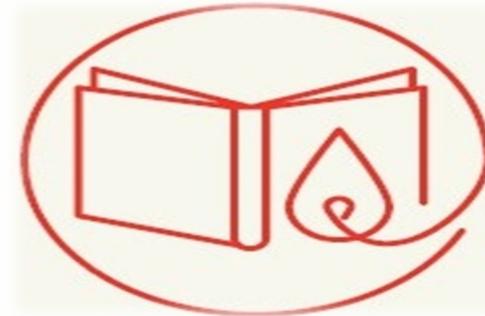
- 1. Awareness and understanding of the Lookback Programme.**
- 2. Experience with lookback notification.**
- 3. Awareness of implications of receiving a lookback notification.**
- 4. Consent to release results to SANBS.**





## Methodology

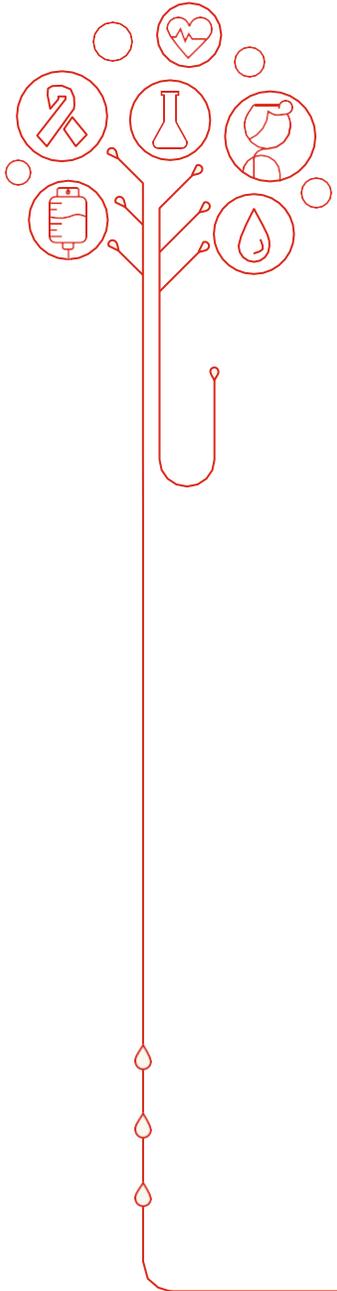
- ❖ A total of 389 Medical doctors were surveyed from eight South African provinces, working in different levels of care.
- ❖ This was done via email, telephone and monkey survey.
- ❖ Data was collected and analysed using Intercooled Stata version 16.
- ❖ Frequencies and percentages were calculated to summarise information.

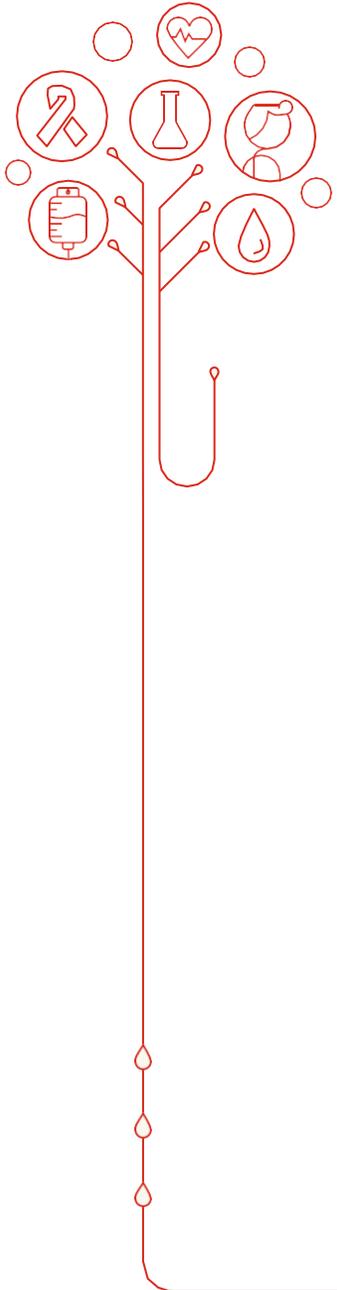


# Results

**The results of this study are presented in the following order:**

1. Descriptive analysis of background information of medical doctors who participated in the study is presented.
2. Descriptive analysis of information relating to awareness, experience and understanding of the Lookback Programme is presented.
3. Awareness, experience and understanding of the Lookback Programme is compared across provinces, levels of care, professional rank and medical disciplines.
4. Consent to release results to SANBS.

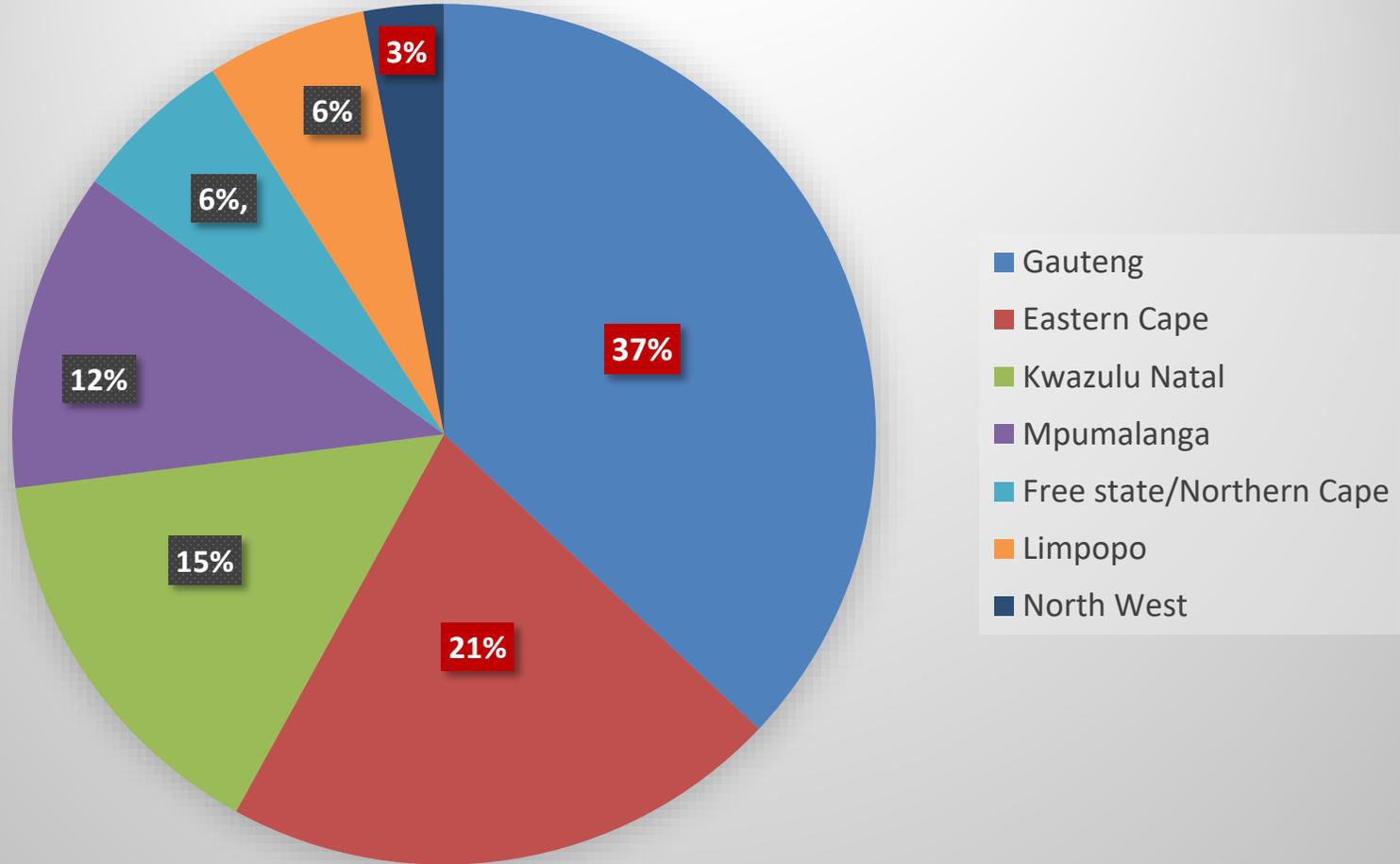


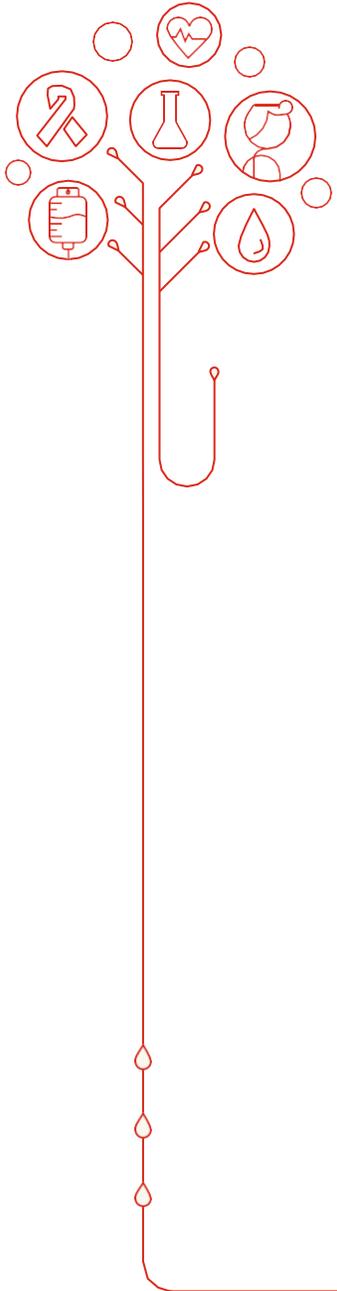


# Results

## Demographics

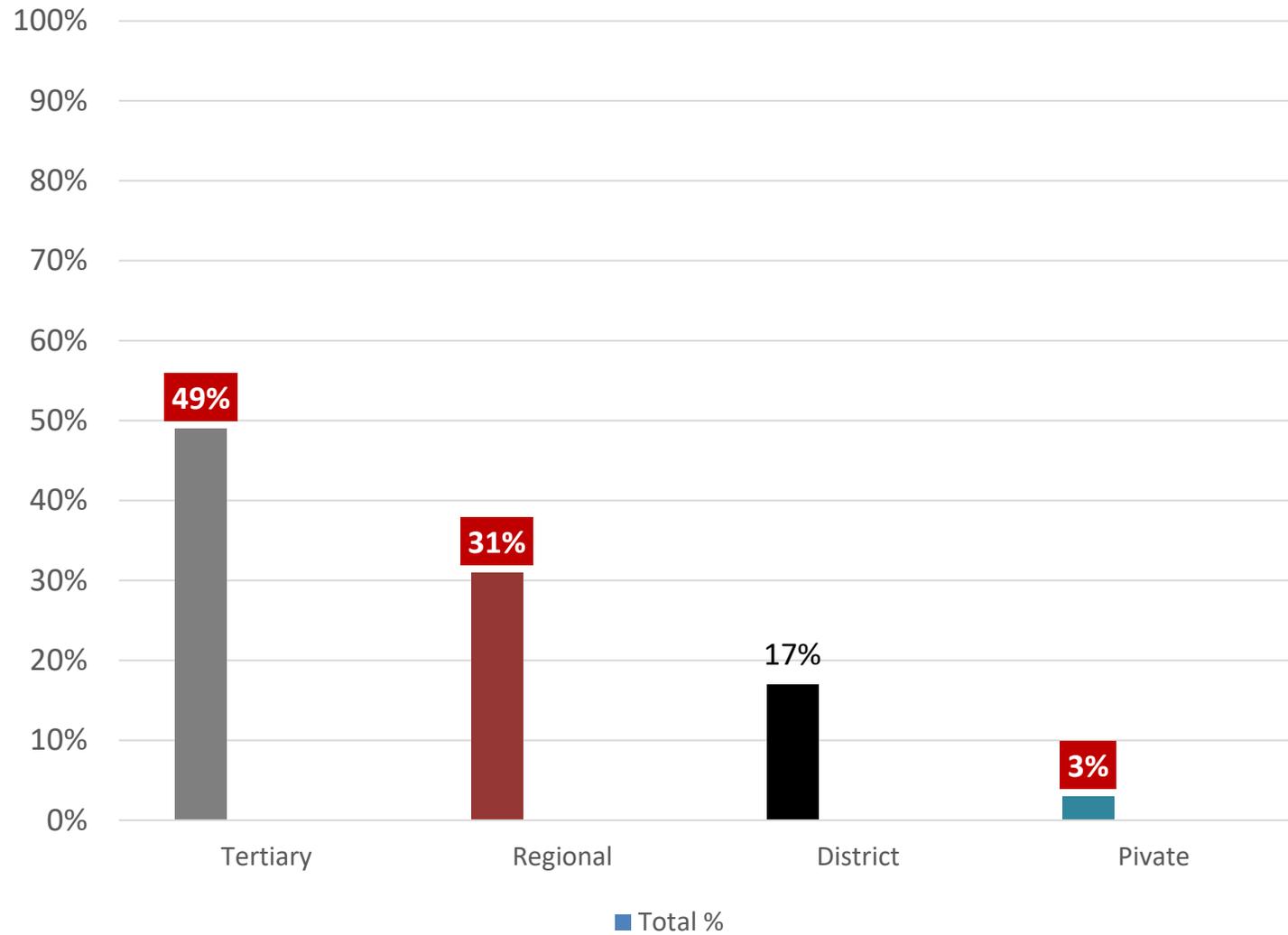
Participation per Province



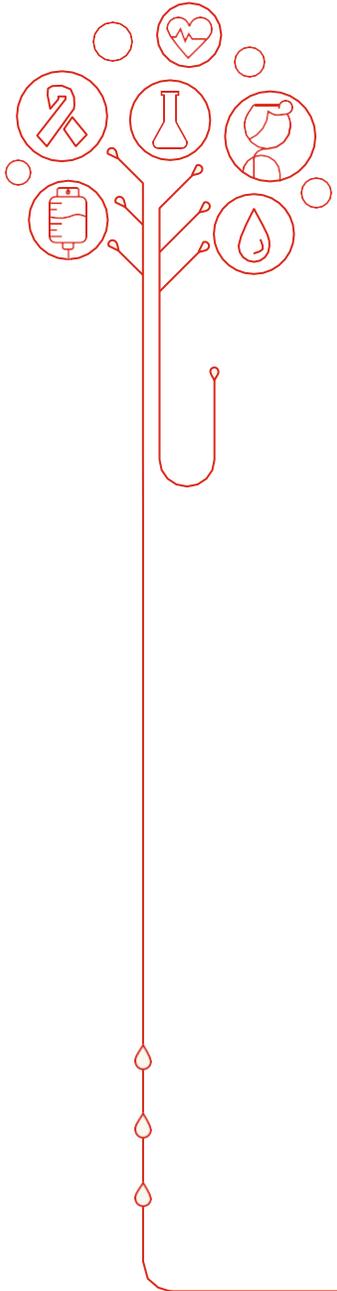


# Results

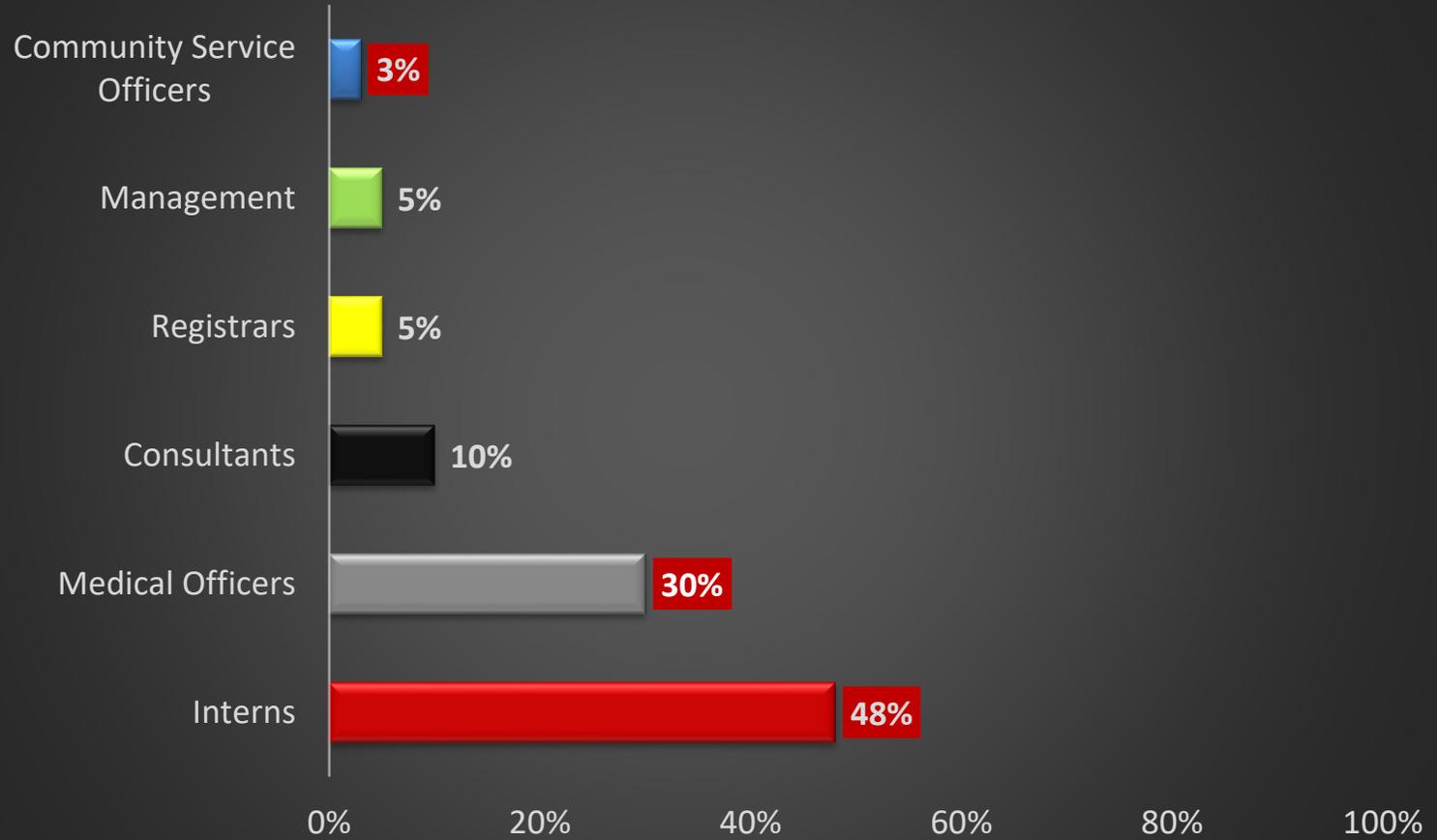
Hospital Level of care

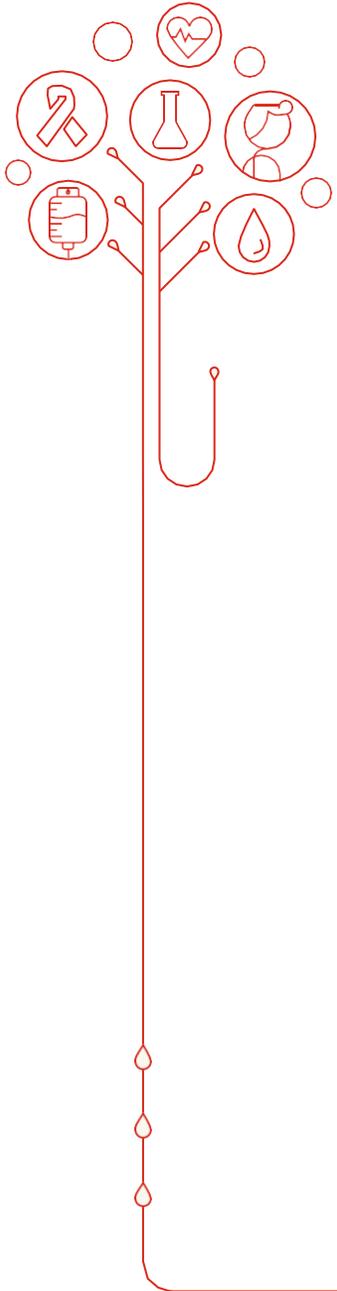


# Results



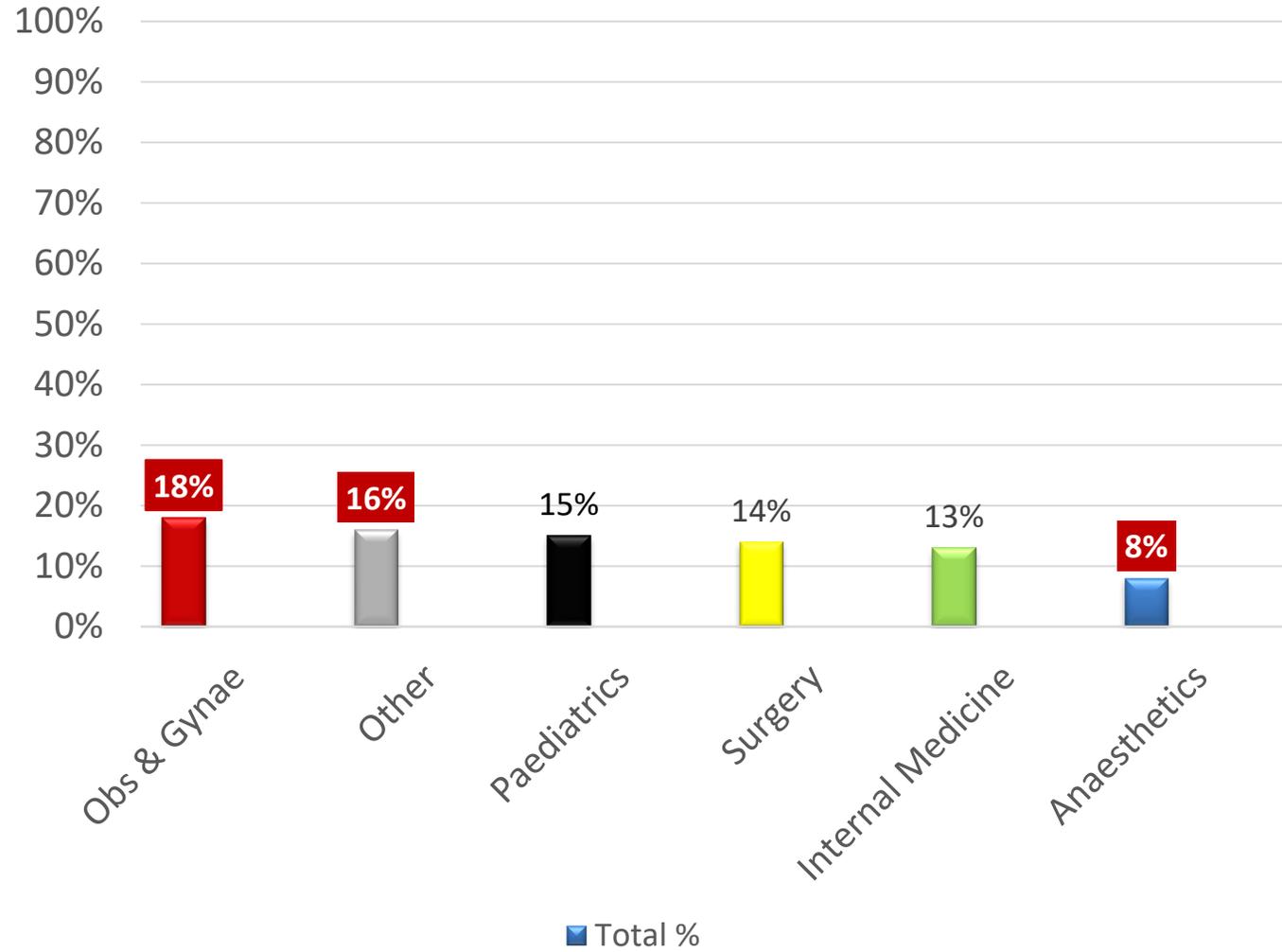
## Professional Rank





# Results

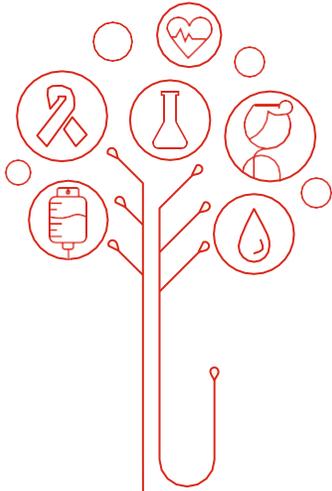
## Medical Discipline



# Results

## Awareness and Understanding of the Lookback Programme

Theme	Variable	Percent
<b>Awareness and understanding about the Lookback Program</b>	Aware of the Lookback Programme offered by SANBS	<b>43,01%</b>
	Understand the importance of the Lookback Programme in blood safety and patient safety	53,39%
	Understand the importance of reporting suspected TTI to the Lookback officer	<b>83,64%</b>
<b>Experience with Lookback notification</b>	Have had a lookback notification reported by a SANBS lookback officer to them or their hospital	<b>38,70%</b>
	Instructions provided in the lookback notification were clear and easy to follow	48,53%

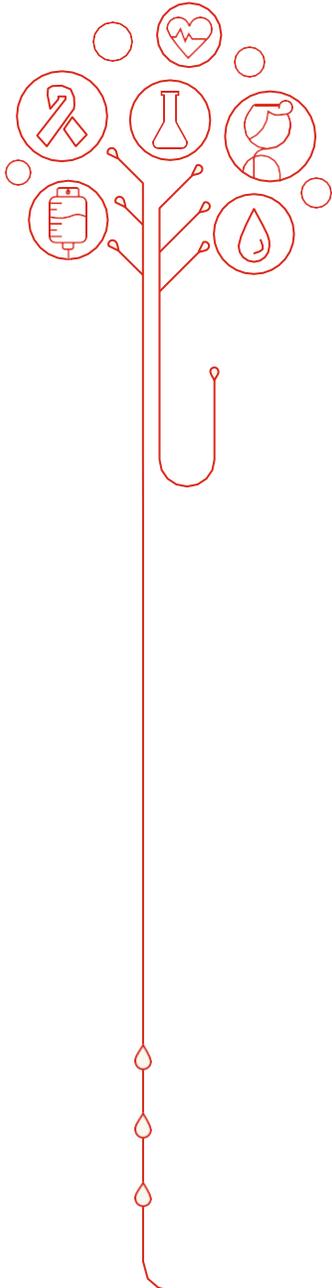


# Results

## Awareness and Understanding -The Lookback Programme



Theme	Variable	Percent
<b>Awareness of implications of receiving Lookback notification</b>	Aware that receiving a lookback notification does not mean that a patient has been transfused with infected blood	53,55%
	Aware that SANBS cover costs for the retest of a recipient identified in a lookback or private laboratory	<b>34,54%</b>
	Aware that SANBS assist patients identified in a lookback program with transportation should the need arise	<b>27,91%</b>
<b>Consent to release results to SANBS</b>	Aware that consent must be received from patient to release results to SANBS	<b>47,80%</b>



## Discussion - Demographics

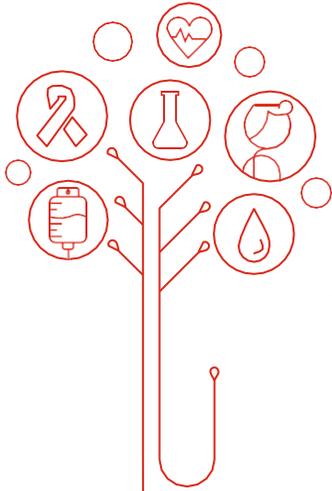
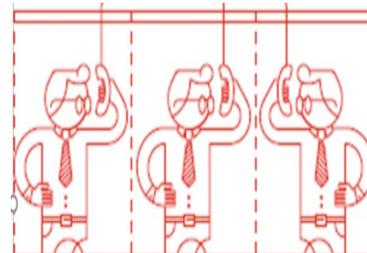
- ❖ Remarkably, the proportion of respondents who understood the importance of reporting a suspected TTI was higher in district and tertiary hospitals.
- ❖ Notably, there were more consultants and managers who were aware of the Lookback Programme than doctors in other professional ranks.
- ❖ The proportion of respondents who were aware of the Lookback Programme was higher for doctors who worked in Internal Medicine and Emergency Departments.



## Discussion – Awareness & Understanding



- ❖ There is some contradiction in responses regarding awareness and understanding of the Lookback Programme.
- ❖ Ideally, respondents who indicated that understanding the importance of the Lookback Program on blood safety, as well as the importance of reporting a suspected TTI to a Lookback Officer, should be on par as blood safety is important to all recipients of a blood transfusion.
- ❖ It was noted that there is a need for Lookback Officers to provide notifications with clearer instructions which are easy to follow.
- ❖ It is a concern that only half of the respondents were aware of the LBP.



## Discussion – (continued)

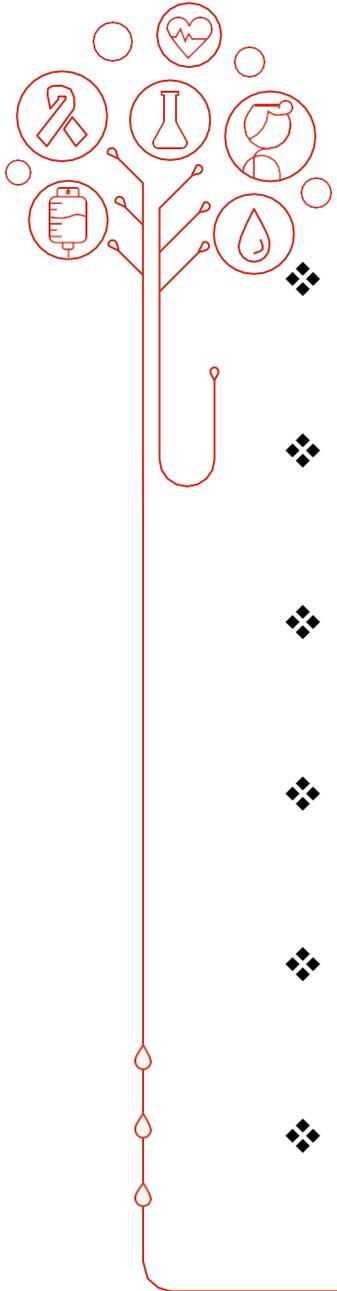


- ❖ It was noted that 53% of the respondents indicated that they understood the importance of the Lookback Programme in blood safety.
- ❖ A staggering 84% of the respondents understood the importance of reporting a suspected TTI to a Lookback Officer.
- ❖ Only 39% the respondents had received a lookback notification from a SANBS Lookback officer. Of which 49% stated that instructions were clear and easy to follow

# Recommendations

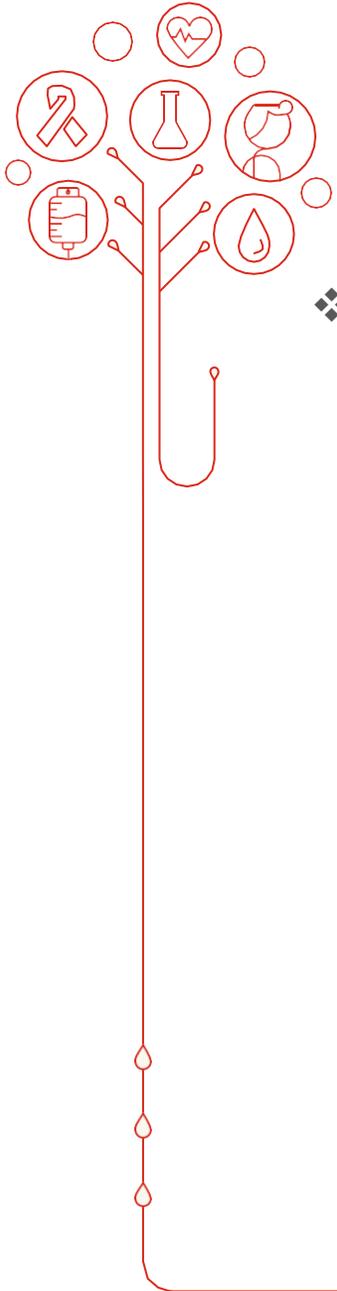


- ❖ Present at congresses and seminars to increase awareness of the Lookback Programme.
- ❖ Present at local congresses for both doctors in primary patient care and specialists (e.g. South African Gastroenterology Society (SAGES)).
- ❖ Continue doing presentations in Hospital Transfusion Committee (HTC) meetings.
- ❖ It is recommended that The Lookback Programme (LBP) be included in the curriculum for doctors in the theoretical aspect at university.
- ❖ Upon completion of their training as interns they should have knowledge of the TTI Lookback Programme.
- ❖ SANBS Lookback Officers must continue to engage with our stakeholders by doing customer satisfaction surveys every 2 years.



# Conclusion

- ❖ Constant and ongoing communication is needed to increase clinicians awareness on the Lookback Programme.



# Acknowledgements

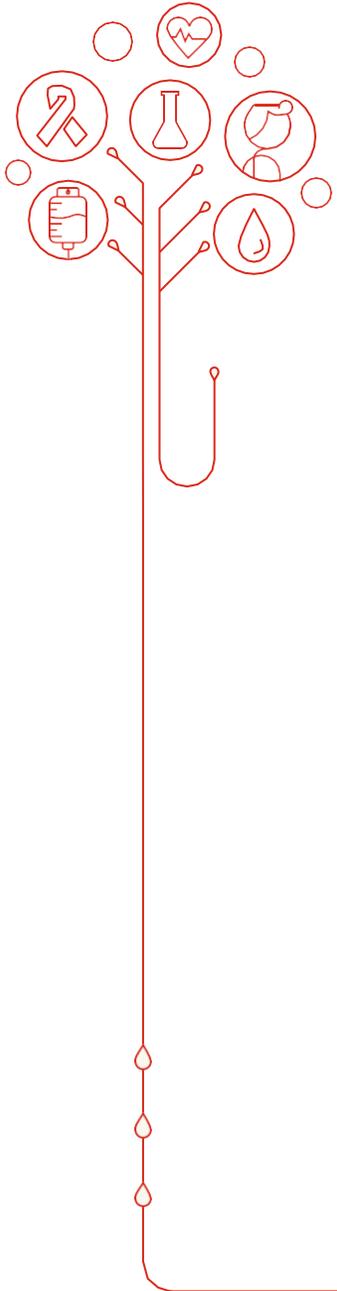
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Thank you