

April 17, 2014

APPROPRIATE USE OF MEDICAL RESOURCES: PATIENT BLOOD MANAGEMENT

AT A GLANCE

At Issue

In [Appropriate Use of Medical Resources](#), a white paper released in November 2013, the American Hospital Association (AHA) and its Physician Leadership Forum (PLF) identified five areas where hospitals, in partnership with their clinical staff and patients, should look to reduce non-beneficial care (www.aha.org/appropriateuse). The PLF is releasing toolkits on each of the recommended areas. The first area of focus is appropriate blood management in inpatient services. To this end, the AHA is collaborating with AABB and others to make leading-edge patient blood management (PBM) resources available to the hospital community.

Our Take:

According to the AABB, "Patient blood management (PBM) is an evidence-based, multidisciplinary approach to optimizing the care of patients who might need transfusion." This toolkit will help hospitals and health systems make important decisions regarding patient blood management.

What You Can Do:

- ✓ Share this advisory with your senior management, senior leader for quality, blood management professionals, transfusion committee, purchasing director, clinic managers, nurse managers, key physician leaders, risk manager and human resources director.
- ✓ Complete the online self-assessment tool to determine your hospital's readiness for adopting a formal PBM program. Completing the self-assessment will result in a set of recommendations about next steps for PBM program implementation and direct you to the resources needed (www.ahaphysicianforum.org/PBM).
- ✓ **Participate in the PBM webinar on May 1 at 2 p.m. ET. Share with your medical staff, clinicians, and transfusion team the PBM webinar, which will include data and compelling evidence for the use of patient blood management to improve care and lower costs.** The webinar will feature Mark H. Ereth, M.D., emeritus professor of anesthesiology, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and PBM consultant.

Further Questions:

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact:

- [Elisa Arespachaga](#), AHA director of the Physician Leadership Forum
- [Jackie Thomas](#), AABB director of Marketing and Corporate Relations

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BACKGROUND

Clinical research has shown that restrictive transfusion practices are generally associated with better patient outcomes as well as reduced health care resource utilization. This evidence has emerged as providers are increasingly being urged to implement evidence-based clinical decision guidelines that improve the quality and efficiency of the care they deliver and measure patient outcomes. In light of these health care landscape changes, increased attention has been placed on the clinical decision to transfuse blood products.

A growing number of clinicians who order blood products are turning to patient blood management (PBM) as an important component of their care planning decisions. PBM comprises a variety of methods, such as the use of evidence-based transfusion guidelines as well as anemia and coagulation management.

A general strategy for initiating a PBM program includes:

- Commitment from hospital leadership to support the development and implementation of the program.
- Development of a preoperative anemia management program.
- Utilization of intraoperative strategies such as blood recovery, normovolemic hemodilution and component sequestration.
- Implementation of point-of-care monitoring in the OR and ICU environments.
- Establishment of an auditing mechanism to ensure reasonable blood utilization.

An evidence-based approach to blood utilization leading to blood usage reductions has the potential to substantially lower facility expenditures and improve patient outcomes, allowing those resources to be redirected to other areas of need within the hospital.

A great deal of work still remains to reduce the number of unnecessary transfusions in the U.S. To accelerate progress, an expanding number of major medical societies are making the appropriate use of blood an important area of focus.

Many hospitals in the U.S. have already embraced PBM and positive patient outcomes have resulted along with a reduction in the variation of practice within the institutions. A comprehensive PBM program has been shown to be a valuable tool to hospitals, hospital systems and clinicians as they strive to improve outcomes while lowering cost.

AT ISSUE

In [Appropriate Use of Medical Resources](#), a white paper released in November 2013, the American Hospital Association (AHA) and its Physician Leadership Forum (PLF) identified five areas where hospitals, in partnership with their clinical staff and patients, should look to reduce non-beneficial care. The PLF is releasing toolkits on each of the recommended areas. The first area of focus is appropriate blood management in inpatient services. To this end, the AHA is collaborating with AABB and others to make leading-edge patient blood management (PBM) resources available to the hospital community via a new toolkit. The toolkit is available at www.aha.org/appropriateuse.

Action Steps

- Complete the online self-assessment tool to determine your hospital's readiness for adopting a formal PBM program. Completing the self-assessment will result in a set of recommendations about next steps for PBM program implementation and direct you to the resources needed (www.ahaphysicianforum.org/PBM).
- Participate in the PBM webinar on May 1 at 2 p.m. ET. Share with your medical staff, clinicians, and transfusion team the PBM webinar, which will include data and compelling evidence for the use of patient blood management to improve care and lower costs. The webinar will feature Mark H. Ereth, M.D., emeritus professor of anesthesiology, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, and PBM consultant.
- Review the PBM Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), developed by AABB, which includes the definition of PBM and requirement for an impactful and sustainable hospital-based program.
- Share the Advocate Health Care-developed, evidence-based transfusion video and AABB clinical practice guidelines with medical staff and clinicians.
- Encourage clinicians to download the AABB iPhone app for additional PBM resources.
- Make available the "Questions to Ask Your Provider" patient resource.

FURTHER QUESTIONS

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact:

- [Elisa Arespachaga](#), AHA director of the Physician Leadership Forum
- [Jackie Thomas](#), AABB director of Marketing and Corporate Relations

Appropriate Use of Medical Resources

Blood Management Toolkit

FOR MORE INFORMATION visit www.aha.org/appropriateuse

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Toolkit

Developed with resources from AABB and Advocate Health Care
To access the toolkit, visit www.aha.org/appropriateuse

User Guide

The toolkit is composed of three sections:

- Resources for hospitals and health systems including a readiness assessment tool – the starting point in developing a successful model of Patient Blood Management (PBM). The readiness assessment tool should be shared with senior management, senior leaders for quality, blood management professionals, transfusion committees, purchasing directors, clinic managers, nurse managers, key physician leaders, risk managers and human resources directors. Also included in this section are resources supporting the benefits of appropriate use of PBM, and frequently asked questions.
- For clinicians, resources include a webinar, clinical evidence supporting appropriate use, an educational video, implementation instructions, and an iPhone application.
- Tools for patients include a guide on how patients can best engage in their care.

The AABB Readiness Assessment Tool

This online self-assessment tool will assist hospitals in pinpointing their readiness for adopting a formal PBM program. Completing the self-assessment will result in a set of recommendations about next steps for PBM program implementation and resources. To begin the self-assessment, go to <http://bit.ly/1I4iEzL>.

Hospital and Health System Resources

National Blood Collection and Utilization Survey (NBCUS) Patient Blood Management Chapter
Conducted by AABB, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' NBCUS report offers a comprehensive analysis of the collection and utilization of blood, blood products and cellular therapies in the United States. For the first time, in this most recent survey, a chapter was devoted to hospital PBM practices. To download, go to <http://bit.ly/1hIVeIs>.

PBM Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Developed by AABB, this document includes the definition of PBM and requirements for an impactful and sustainable hospital-based program. To download, go to <http://bit.ly/1iqnY1j>.

Clinician Resources

PBM Webinar

This webinar, on May 1, 2014 at 2 p.m. ET, will include data and compelling evidence for the use of PBM to improve care and lower costs. The webinar will feature Mark H. Ereth, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Anesthesiology, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, and PBM consultant. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/Qb4Z0d>.

AABB's "Getting Started in Patient Blood Management"

This primer thoroughly discusses five major concepts in PBM: 1) limiting blood loss through phlebotomy for testing, 2) optimizing patient hemoglobin levels, 3) intraoperative blood recovery techniques, 4) minimizing perioperative blood loss, and 5) making evidence-based hemotherapy decisions. Also included are practical suggestions for taking initial positive steps toward program implementation, sample forms and reports, as well as helpful print and online resources. To download, go to <http://bit.ly/RpKDkM>.

Evidence-based Transfusion Practice Video

This hour-long educational video developed by Blood Management University and provided by Advocate Health Care reviews the medical decision to transfuse, origins of transfusion guidelines, transfusion requirements in critical care, blood transfusion in cardiac disease, why transfusion doesn't improve outcomes, physical properties of stored blood, transfusion-related adverse effects, and transfusion dose response. To download, go to <http://bit.ly/1kYGFg3>.

"Red Blood Cell Transfusion: A Clinical Practice Guideline from the AABB"

This guideline – which was published in July 2012 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* – provides clinical recommendations about hemoglobin concentration thresholds and other clinical variables that trigger red blood cell transfusions in hemodynamically stable adults and children. To download, go to <http://bit.ly/QnZ7AG>.

iPhone App

The AABB iPhone app includes three valuable PBM resources:

- The **Red Blood Cell Transfusion Data Card** summarizes clinical practice guidelines for the transfusion of red blood cells to adults and pediatric patients.
- The **Blood Transfusion Therapy Data Card** details the management of acute transfusion reactions.
- The **Circular of Information for the Use of Human Blood and Blood Components** provides an extensive review of licensed and some unlicensed blood and blood components, their indications for use, special precautions, instructions for administration, and adverse effects of transfusion.

For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/1gD6uy5>.

Patient Resources

PBM Patient Handout

This handout, developed by AABB, is provided as a resource to patients who may need transfusion and for the health care professionals treating them. It answers common questions about transfusion and PBM. To download, go to <http://bit.ly/1eRhjJJ>.