Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Department of Health and Community Services
Provincial Blood Coordinating Program

GUIDELINES FOR TRANSFUSION ORDERS FOR BLOOD COMPONENTS AND BLOOD PRODUCTS	NLBCP-021

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Effective Date	2021-02-18
Version	3.0
Review Due Date	2023-02-18

Overview

The transfusion of blood components and products occurs every day in clinical practice. The use of these blood components and blood products in clinical practice contribute to the provision of life-saving and therapeutic benefits for recipients. Errors in ordering practices can lead to serious consequences for the recipient in terms of morbidity and mortality. Therefore, it is important to implement and follow standard policies and operating procedures that identify the requirements that need to be met by the clinician prescriber and by the recipient to ensure safety, efficacy, and quality of the blood component and/or product, prior to its release for transfusion.

Policy

1. All Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) shall develop and implement a policy that identifies the documentation requirement(s) necessary of the prescriber ordering transfusion of blood components and/or products.
2. All RHAs shall have operating procedures for the processing and management of orders for blood components and/or products prior to its release from the Transfusion Medicine Laboratory to ensure the safety, quality, and efficacy of both the component and/or product and the recipient.
3. All RHAs shall develop and implement a policy that ensures that all recipients of blood components and/or products are appropriately informed prior to transfusion. The policy shall describe the process of obtaining informed consent and the opportunity for the recipient to ask questions and receive satisfactory answers along with the following information:
   3.1. Alternatives to transfusion;
   3.2. The blood component and/or product to be transfused;
   3.3. Risks and benefits of transfusion.
4. The transfusion of any blood component and/or product must be ordered (electronic, written, or verbal), and is to be administered under the authorization of a licensed physician or physician delegate.
5. Transfusion orders should be accurate, complete, and legible and ensure unequivocal identification of the recipient.

6. Any incomplete, inaccurate, or illegible orders shall not be accepted by the Transfusion Medicine Laboratory.
7. There shall be written procedures for establishing positive recipient identification in situations where recipients do not have an identification number.
8. There shall be an operating procedure concerning recipient identification in emergency situations, or in situations whereby the identity of the recipient cannot be verified.
9. Any order for blood components and/or products (electronic, written, or verbal) shall include:
   - 9.1. Recipient's first and last name and identification number or equivalent information if these are not available;
   - 9.2. The location of the recipient;
   - 9.3. The clinical indication for transfusion;
   - 9.4. The type and quantity of blood component and/or product to be transfused;
   - 9.5. The date and time that the transfusion shall be administered on, and the duration that the transfusion should be administered over;
   - 9.6. If multiple blood components and/or products are required to be transfused, the sequential order of transfusion;
   - 9.7. Any special transfusion requirements and/or any modifications to the blood component;
   - 9.8. The requirement for the use of blood warmers or rapid infusion devices with exception given to identified clinical areas where there is an established hospital policy/procedure; and,
   - 9.9. Any pre/post medications to be administered with the transfusion.
10. All records of transfusion shall be retained in the recipient's medical chart in accordance with the facility's retention for medical records

Key Words

transfusion, orders, blood component, blood product, prescriber

References

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