



Blood Utilization Review

Purpose

Blood transfusion practices at the University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers are reviewed by the Transfusion Committee of the Medical Staff. The purpose of a utilization review is to improve the processes involved in the ordering, distribution, handling, dispensing and administration of blood components and to monitor the effects of transfusion practices.

Review Criteria

The review criteria are approved by the Transfusion Committee which reports to Executive Committee on Clinical Affairs (ECCA). These criteria reflect a consensus as to the generally accepted rationale for the use of blood components based upon published clinical trials, consensus statements, and guidelines produced by national organizations. However, it must be noted that review criteria do not necessarily constitute indications, or triggers, for transfusion and that specific clinical situations may dictate transfusion practices that differ from the review criteria. The Transfusion Committee recognizes that all transfusion decisions are clinical judgments that cannot necessarily be reduced to predefined indications.

Review Responsibilities

The Transfusion Committee reviews data collected to assess institutional compliance with transfusion monitoring and invites department representatives to discuss their utilization review findings.

Data Collection

Data is collected by departments and by Clinical Information Decision Support Services (CIDSS). Both prospective and retrospective data collection methods are used. Data are summarized and displayed on the service level dashboards to facilitate identification of trends and provide an overall picture of blood use. Data can also be viewed by individual case.

Utilization reviews are generally focused on procedures and patient care units with 1) high use, 2) patients requiring special products, or 3) transfusion situations at increased risk of adverse outcomes. Over time, reviews cover all product types and patient groups.



Elements of utilization review include:

- Documentation of clinical indication for transfusion
- Pertinent laboratory testing including CBC, platelet count, PT, aPTT, and fibrinogen level
- Ordering and dosage of blood components
- Evaluation of transfusion outcome

Oversight

The Transfusion Committee reviews the results of the quality monitors of transfusion practices including:

- Ordering practices
- Patient identification
- Sample collection and labeling
- Infectious and non-infectious adverse events
- Usage and discard
- Appropriateness of use
- Blood administration policies
- The ability of the service to meet patient needs
- Compliance with institution and published recommendations
- Sentinel, serious adverse and near-miss event reviews as requested by the Chief of Clinical Affairs

The Committee reports its recommendations to the Chief of Clinical Affairs.

References

The Joint Commission Standards P1.01.01.01.07, P1.01.01.01.08, LD.04.04.01, LD.04.04.05, LD.04.04.05.01, P1.02.01.01.04, LD.04.04.01.01, P1.01.01.01

American Association of Blood Banks. Standards for Blood Banks & Transfusion Services, Bethesda, MD: AABB, 2013. 8.2 Monitoring of Blood Utilization