

To: Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Medical Staff and Nursing Associates

From: Anita Thakur MD, Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Hospital Blood Bank Medical Director
Suzanne Wilkerson MD, Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Hospital EHR Medical Director

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Subject: Blood Management Guidelines and Cerner EHR - Workflow Reminder

Ascension Columbia St. Mary's supports a Patient Blood Management Program as recommended by the Joint Commission and AABB (formerly the American Association of Blood Banks). As per AABB 2015 White Paper, "Clinical research has demonstrated that a restrictive transfusion strategy results in patient outcomes similar to those associated with more liberal strategies and may even improve outcomes. At the same time, retrospective studies have suggested an association between transfusions and patient morbidity — increased hospital-acquired infections and length of stay. In economic terms, unnecessary transfusions have been shown to translate to poor use of resources and increased costs."

Guidelines for PRBC Transfusions

- Treat individual patient signs and symptoms; not laboratory values alone.
- **Limit initial transfusion to one unit in hemodynamically stable patient who is not actively bleeding.**
- Reassess patient signs and symptoms and response to first unit before considering a second unit.
- Limit transfusion to acceptable clinical situations:
 - Hgb is ≤ 7
 - Hgb ≤ 8 with decompensated clinical or surgical condition
 - Any Hgb in setting of life threatening rapid blood loss

Cerner EHR Clinical Decision Support (design update in 2017 per Ascension National Recommendations)

- Two PowerPlans default to "one unit" PRBC
 - One Unit Packed Red Blood Cell Transfusion Subphase
 - Blood Bank Product & Transfusion Subphase
- Alerts fire in following situations
 - No recent Hgb
 - Selected indication does not match most recent Hgb result
 - Hgb > 8
 - Order for more than one-unit PRBC(For patient safety, will not fire if Rapid Blood Loss is selected indication.)

Questions/Comments regarding this information can be directed as follows.

Transfusion Policies and Procedures: Anita Thakur MD, Anita.thakur@ascension.org

EHR PowerPlans and Alerts: Suzanne Wilkerson MD, Suzanne.wilkerson@ascension.org

URL below links to Clinical Practice Guidelines From the AABB: Red Blood Cell Transfusion Thresholds and Storage (JAMA November 2016):

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2569055?widget=personalizedcontent&previousarticle=2569053>