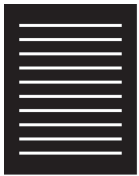

Preface



PATIENT BLOOD MANAGEMENT: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Optimizing Care represents a collective effort of many authors to give the reader a practical and technical understanding of best practices for patient blood management. Patient blood management encompasses a wide variety of strategies with a patient-centered focus, intended to optimize clinical outcomes, while reducing or avoiding allogeneic transfusions using evidence-based medical management.

Many of the techniques espoused in this text are not new, yet many of the strategies have not yet gained widespread usage. The reason for this is threefold. First, it is only within the past decade that the evidence base supporting these practices has been developed. Second, until very recently, no quality measures or standards had been created to define good patient blood management practices. Finally, many of the techniques are minimally effective as stand-alone strategies, and are best used by combining strategies together. Perhaps the best “mission statement” for this body of work could be summed up as the following: optimal patient care should involve a multidisciplinary approach, with providers from various specialties working together to prevent and manage anemia, optimize coagulation to prevent or minimize hemorrhage, and promote blood conservation, with the primary goals of avoiding or minimizing allogeneic blood transfusion and improving clinical outcomes.

The book is intended to be a reference for surgeons, anesthesiologists, perfusionists, transfusion specialists, intensivists, hospitalists, clinicians, nurses, and other members of the health-care team who provide care to both medical and surgical patients. It was written with the goal of covering a wide range of clinically relevant topics that directly relate to patient blood management. From the introductory chapters on why and how to establish a patient blood management program, to more specific chapters on anemia and coagulation management, perioperative care, quality improvement initiatives, and point-of-care testing, the topics covered are comprehensive. The chapters also include special concerns for liver, obstetric, oncologic, pediatric, cardiac, and orthopedic surgery, as well as extracorporeal cardiovascular support and non-red cell transfusion therapies, including other blood-derived and recombinant components and factors. As a whole, this book is intended to give the interested reader a broader and updated understanding of the current concepts and techniques that define patient blood management.

Recently, patient blood management has dramatically gained popularity since blood transfusion has not only been identified as the most common procedure performed in US hospitals, but has also been named as one of the top five most overused procedures by The Joint Commission following their National Summit on Overuse. In addition, the national campaign called Choosing Wisely, first started in 2013, was designed to

reduce unnecessary tests and procedures. There are now five different societies that have specific Choosing Wisely aims to reduce unnecessary or avoidable transfusions. Finally, the AABB has worked in a collaborative fashion with other national organizations, such as The Joint Commission, to create and implement standards for patient blood management. The first edition of AABB's *Standards for a Patient Blood Management Program* was released in 2014; these

quality measures now serve as a guide for hospitals that would like certification in this relatively new medical discipline.

Special thanks are due to Laurie Munk and Jennifer Boyer at AABB for their relentless assistance in producing this valuable resource.

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