

Preface

Continuous improvement in the practice of all aspects of medicine is the goal of every health-care provider. In transfusion medicine, those individuals responsible for overseeing practices and encouraging improvement are faced with difficult challenges. This *Guide* is intended to facilitate this improvement process. It is meant to serve as a reference for surgeons, perfusionists, transfusion specialists, clinicians, nurses, and other health-care providers who care for surgical patients.

Although patients may donate blood for themselves preoperatively, many more techniques can also be applied intraoperatively and postoperatively to conserve blood and avoid allogeneic transfusion. This *Guide* focuses on the perioperative collection and reinfusion of blood that is shed during surgery. Topics addressed include maximizing the effectiveness of blood recovery and reinfusion, indications and contraindications for use of the techniques, as well as the complications that may result. Also covered are issues related to storage of recovered blood, administrative aspects of program operations, quality assurance, and regulatory and accreditation requirements.

It has been an honor and a privilege to have been asked by the AABB to work with a group of subject matter experts to create this *Guide*. The Transfusion Safety/Patient Blood Management Subsection (TS/PBM) oversaw the update of this *Guide* on behalf of the AABB Transfusion Medicine Section. The authors have graciously shared their time, knowledge, and experience. This publication is the product of those who truly understand blood recovery and will benefit anyone seeking to start or enhance their perioperative program.

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