

Foreword

The concept of blood management encompasses all aspects of patient evaluation and clinical management surrounding the transfusion decision-making process and its subsequent application. Blood management is the appropriate provision and use of blood components in order to minimize the use of allogeneic blood while maximizing patient outcomes. Blood management programs should be conducted using a multidisciplinary approach including the use of blood component guidelines, pharmaceutical preparations to minimize blood loss, blood conservation methods, and blood utilization review practices. Blood usage guidelines are usually developed through the institution's multidisciplinary transfusion committee by auditing current practice, reviewing evidence-based practice, educating ordering physicians and, in some cases, consulting published national or international guidelines promulgated by professional organizations. Once implemented, continuous auditing of practice and review of new evidence may lead to facility guideline revision.

The Clinical Transfusion Medicine Committee and the Scientific Section Coordinating Committee (now reconstituted as the Transfusion Medicine Section Coordinating Committee) oversaw the rewriting and updating of this document from the *Guidelines for Blood Utilization Review* (2001). The contributors and reviewers of this edition are thanked for their diligent efforts. Also appreciated are the contributors to the earlier work, who provided the foundation for much of the current *Guidelines*. With careful application of the concepts and data detailed herein, it is hoped that these *Guidelines* will serve to advance patient safety.

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