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## Preface



HOSPITALS TODAY ARE BEING CHALLENGED TO improve patient safety and outcomes while reducing costs. Overuse or inappropriate use of blood components can present significant patient safety issues and raise the cost of care. Appropriate and safe transfusion therapy is a complex, interlinking chain of events that depends on the integration and coordination among multiple hospital services, including physicians, laboratory medicine, nursing, pharmacy, anesthesia, surgery, and quality management. Not surprisingly, many institutions struggle with multiple facets within this spectrum of care—given that no one individual or department oversees the entire process of transfusion practice.

A growing number of reports in the literature have suggested a transfusion safety officer (TSO) or patient blood management coordinator (PBMC) as a position that can aid in improving patient care and optimize appropriate use of blood components. Countries such as Canada, France, and the United Kingdom have led the way in using TSOs to reduce transfusion errors. Many health-care professionals are interested in promoting PBM and transfusion safety, but lack the knowledge to develop a TSO or PBMC role as either a hospital-based or blood-center-based position. In addition, health-care workers may find themselves alone in this newly created position at their institutions with little experience or resources to guide them in their new duties and responsibilities.

This book is intended to provide the interested reader with the history, current, and evolving roles of TSOs and PBMCs, as well as tools and guidance for establishing a TSO or PBMC position. The contents provide a template and guidance for building a business case. Over a dozen job descriptions from colleagues across the country are provided on the accompanying CD-ROM. Finally, information to aid in maximizing the performance and effectiveness of such a candidate is included.

It must be noted, however, responsibilities of a TSO or PBMC vary widely, because this area of interest is still in its infancy. As a reflection

## Transfusion Medicine's Emerging Positions

of the evolving landscape, chapters in this book offer different perspectives on the terminology, activities, and concerns of TSOs and PBMCs. The authors speak from their own experience gained “in the trenches” and from networking with colleagues around the world. Their goal of this book is to provide assistance to, and options for consideration by, readers who are preparing themselves for the future and moving their facilities forward. In addition, the chapter authors hope this book will serve as a reference for those who may find themselves in this new role as it gains wider acceptance in health-care institutions.

In researching for this book, there was limited printed material on these emerging positions in the field of transfusion medicine, particularly in the United States. Information presented in some of the chapters is based on the author's personal experience or communication with colleagues. Undoubtedly there have been several nurses, medical laboratory scientists, and other health-care professionals across the country who have been performing the duties of a TSO or PBMC for years, although without the formal title. Their efforts do not go unnoticed by the editors, and we apologize if there are inadvertent omissions of information about the development of these new roles in hospitals and blood centers. The editors invite feedback and suggestions on how to improve future editions.

The editors would like to thank all of the pioneers in this field—both the silent health-care workers who are at the patient's bedside as advocates for ensuring “the right product to the right patient for the right reason at the right time” and the more visible individuals who have advanced research in transfusion therapy and provided limitless publications for the education and training of TSOs, PBMCs, and transfusion medicine specialists alike.

Foremost, the editors extend heartfelt thanks to the chapter authors for taking time to share their expertise with others. Their energy and efforts in the face of declining available time for such educational pursuits is evident by the quality of the chapters put forth. We all owe a debt of gratitude to their employers, who can be called “early adopters” of this growing approach to improving patient care. The editors also appreciate the support of AABB and the Press Editorial Board members for giving us the opportunity to undertake this endeavor. Our special thanks to AABB Publications staff for their patience and assistance; without their help and guidance this book would not have been possible.

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