

## ***Foreword***

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**C**ontinuous 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 *Guideline* 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 *Guideline* 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.

The Scientific Section Coordinating Committee (SSCC) oversaw the update of this *Guideline*. The SSCC appreciates the diligent efforts of the authors in compiling and interpreting the information presented. Thoughtful input from numerous reviewers is also gratefully acknowledged. With the careful application of the concepts detailed herein, it is hoped that this guideline will serve to advance patient safety.

—Dan A. Waxman, MD  
Chair, Scientific Section Coordinating Committee