

Guideline 9

Educational Requirements for Patients Receiving Transfusion

9.1 Purpose

To provide best practice guidelines for nurses that align with the standards set forth by the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB), Accreditation Canada (AC), Transfusion Services, Canadian Standards Association (CSA), and the Canadian Society of Transfusion Medicine (CSTM) for educational requirements for patients receiving blood, blood products, and/or blood components.

9.2 Policies

Health Care Facilities/Service Delivery Organizations in Manitoba must have a policy in place to ensure written notification of the type of blood, blood component, and/or blood product patients received while in hospital.

Patients shall receive necessary education to make informed consent decisions before receiving blood, blood products, and/or blood components.

9.3 Documentation

The education provided to the patient shall be documented in an integrated progress note (IPN) and should include:

- The information that was presented
- Date and time it was presented
- Evaluation of patients' understanding of that information

9.4 Materials

- IPN
- Patient notification record. [See Appendix 3](#)

9.5 Quality Control

A facility-based quality improvement system or process should be in place to monitor compliance to patient education requirements for patients receiving blood, blood components, and/or blood products through random patient and health care record audits and/or other quality improvement mechanisms. Health Care Facilities/Service Delivery Organizations should implement a quality improvement system facilitated through the Transfusion Practice Committee to monitor compliance.

9.6 Procedure

Prior to pre-transfusion testing	Ensure the patient understands that the purpose of pre-transfusion testing is for potential blood transfusion.
Prior to request for blood or blood component/product	Ensure the patient understands the type of blood, blood component, and/or blood product, the risks and benefits, potential adverse effects, alternative treatment, and the right to refuse.
At the time of administration	Ensure the patient understands the intended purpose of the transfusion and type of product administered. Explain the process of the transfusion and advise the patient to immediately report any signs and symptoms of a transfusion reaction.
At the end of transfusion	Provide written notification of type of product. Document all elements of education in the health record, including patient's understanding. Refer to Appendix 3 – Patient Notification Record.

9.7 Notes/Special Considerations

- Informed patients are better prepared to make choices regarding their care.
- Every effort should be made to ensure patients understand the risks, benefits, purpose of transfusion, and alternatives to transfusion.
- It is preferable that patients receive both verbal and written information about the blood, blood component, or blood product they are about to receive. [blood-transfusions-what-you-should-know.pdf](#)
- Written notification of the type of blood, blood component, or blood product received is required.
- Patient's families and support persons should be involved in the educational process whenever possible.