MB Guideline 6

Monitoring of Patients Receiving Transfusion

Transfusion Reactions can be mild or life threatening. All products derived from human blood can pose a risk. Adequate monitoring of patients receiving transfusion is essential in the recognition of transfusion reactions.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To provide best practice guidelines for nurses that align with the standards set forth by the American Association of Blood Banks for safe patient monitoring during transfusion of blood/ blood components.

1.2 The standards state that the patient shall be observed for potential adverse events during the transfusion and for an appropriate time thereafter.

2.0 Policy for Monitoring of Patients Receiving Transfusion

2.1 Patient vital signs shall be obtained and recorded before, during, and post transfusion. Vitals signs should include temperature, blood pressure, heart rate and respiratory rate. Oxygen saturations should be assessed as needed.

2.2 Baseline vitals: within 30 minutes prior to beginning transfusion/infusion.

2.3 Upon initiation of blood/ blood component, the transfusionist shall directly observe the patient during the first 15 minutes of transfusion. Repeat vital signs 15 minutes after initiation of transfusion.

2.4 In the event the patient exhibits signs of an adverse event of transfusion/infusion reaction, refer to Guideline 7 Transfusion Reaction- Identification, Management and Reporting.

2.5 Reassess vital signs every hour or more frequent based on clinical indications and product guidelines. Refer to product monographs.

2.6 Reassess vital signs on completion of blood/blood component and 1 hour after. The patient should be monitored for 1 hour post completion of red blood cell transfusion. For those patients in an outpatient clinical setting, post transfusion monitoring should be at the discretion of the transfusionist.

2.7 Specific written instructions concerning possible adverse events shall be provided to the patient or responsible caregiver when direct medical observation or monitoring of the patient will not be available after transfusion. See Appendix 1 for sample discharge instructions.

3.0 Documentation

Monitoring Best Practice

Baseline vital signs and assessment

15 minutes after start of transfusion

STAY WITH PATIENT FOR THE FIRST 15 MINUTES

Every hour during transfusion

One hour post transfusion for inpatients

Educate patient for signs of adverse reaction

3.1 Record vital signs on the Cumulative Blood Product Record or applicable facility documentation record. *See* Appendix 6 CBPR-Cumulative Blood Product Record Completion Guide and sample

4.0 Quality Control

4.1 Health care facilities/Regional Health Authorities (RHA) in Manitoba should implement a quality improvement system to monitor compliance with the policies for the administration of blood components and blood products.

4.2 A competency program shall be established to ensure all personnel involved in the transfusion process.

5.0 Notes/Special Consideration

5.1 When administering IvIg products, it is recommended that vital signs be monitored when increasing infusion rates and if lot number changes with product infused.

5.2 Most reactions occur within 1- 30 minutes of administration, monitor closely for the first 15 minutes.

Facility endorsement if guideline is used as Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Approved by: _____ _____
(Senior Management) (Senior Management)

Facility effective date: _____
(Date of implementation)