

Guideline 10**Educational Requirements for Patients Receiving Transfusion**

Informed patients are better prepared to make choices regarding their care. Every effort should be made to ensure patients understand the risks, benefits, and alternatives to blood and blood products.

Purpose

10.0 To provide best practice guidelines for nurses that align with the standards set forth by AABB and the Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine for the educational requirements for patients receiving blood or blood products.

Policy for Educational Requirements for Patients Receiving Transfusion.

10.1 The standards state that recipients of blood and blood products are provided with information that includes a description of the blood or blood product, the risks and benefits associated with the transfusion, and any alternatives including their risks and benefits.

10.2 In the event of an emergency, where it is deemed necessary to provide the patient with emergency blood components (not fully tested for infectious disease or prior to pre-transfusion testing these risks are explained to patient.

10.3 In order to be fully informed patients are made aware that they have received a blood or blood product. There is a policy or procedure in place to provide written information to patients about the blood or blood products they have received.

Refer to Appendix 13 [Sample notification card.](#)

10.4 It is preferable that patients receive both verbal and written information about the blood or blood products they are about to receive. Written notification of the type of blood or blood product received is required.

Procedure for Educating Patients

<p>✓ Prior to pre-transfusion testing</p>	<p>Ensure understanding the purpose of pre-transfusion testing is for potential blood transfusion.</p>
<p>✓ Prior to request for blood or blood product</p>	<p>Ensure understanding of type of product, risks and benefits, potential adverse effects, alternatives and right to refusal.</p>
<p>✓ At time of administration</p>	<p>Describe the expected normal and abnormal responses to the transfusion.</p>
<p>✓ At the end of the transfusion</p>	<p>Ensure understanding of the intended purpose of the transfusion and type of product administered. Provide written notification of type of product. Document all elements of education in the health record.</p>

Documentation

10.5 Documentation of the education provided to patient should include what information was presented, time it was presented, and evaluation of patients understanding of that information.

Quality Control

10.6 A facility-based quality improvement system or process should be in place to monitor compliance to patient educational requirements. Sites/facilities should facilitate these requirements by creating/sharing consistent educational materials.

Refer to **Appendix 13** [Sample patient information sheet on risks of transfusion](#).

Notes/Special Considerations

10.7 Patient’s families and support persons should be involved in the educational process wherever possible.