Guideline 5

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.

Purpose

5.0 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 safe patient monitoring during transfusion of blood/blood components.

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

Practice Policy for Monitoring of Patients Receiving Transfusion

5.2 Patients vital signs shall be obtained and recorded before, during, and post transfusion. Vitals signs should include temperature, blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate and oxygen saturations.

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

5.4 Upon initiation of blood/ blood component, the transfusionist shall directly observe the patient during the first 15 minutes of transfusion. Repeat vital signs are completed after the first 15 minutes and are then reassessed hourly or more frequently based on clinical indications and product guidelines. Refer to product monographs.

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

5.6 In the event the patient exhibits signs of an adverse event of transfusion/infusion reaction.

Refer to Guideline 7 Transfusion Reactions, Identification, Management and Reporting

5.7 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.

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**

Documentation

5.8 Record vital signs on the Cumulative Blood Product Record or applicable facility documentation record.

Refer to Appendix 7
CBPR-Cumulative Blood Product Record Completion Guide and sample

Quality Control

5.9 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.

5.10 A competency program shall be established for all personnel involved in the transfusion process.

Notes/Special Consideration

5.11 When administering IVIG products, it is recommended that vital signs be monitored when increasing infusion rates.

Refer to product monograph for additional information.

5.12 Most reactions occur within 1 - 30 minutes of administration. Closely monitor for the first 15 minutes.