



Statement of competence: Blood Transfusion Competency

Background

In February 2006, EQuIP version 4.0 was released. This current version of EQuIP addresses Blood Transfusion as a separate safety issue for the first time. In order to gain a satisfactory rating on the EQuIP guidelines at accreditation, RCH needs to ensure that all clinicians involved in blood transfusion are deemed competent.

It has been found that by following the correct procedures (checking and monitoring) of the patient many errors associated with Blood Transfusion can be significantly reduced, leading to increased patient safety (SHOT 2005).

Competency

Competency is defined as attaining and maintaining "sufficient skill, knowledge base, or unique quality or experience to successfully master a task or series of tasks with the expressed goal of being able to complete assigned responsibilities" (Peterson and Burns 2005).

The Nurses Board of Victoria (2006) state that:

- Nurses must perform only those clinical procedures for which they have been educationally prepared and in which they have demonstrated competence.
- Maintenance of knowledge and competence in performing clinical procedures is essential and it is the responsibility of the individual to ensure their competence is maintained through regular review.
- Nurses are at all times accountable and responsible for their own actions, and to be aware of the limits of their knowledge and competence, and to act within these limits.
- Nurses must be cognizant of the policies and procedures of their employing organization.

Inline with these recommendations, each nurse at the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) is responsible for maintaining her or his own competence.

This self declaration of competence is intended to assist RNs and those supporting RNs in the identification of and prioritisation of learning opportunities.

Standards

The standards for this competency are based on best current evidence, including:

- Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) National Competency Standards for the Registered Nurse
- ANMC Code of Conduct
- ANZSBT and Royal College of Nursing Guidelines for the Administration of Blood Components
- Australian Red Cross Blood Service (ARCBS) Transfusion Medicine Manual
- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and ANZSBT Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Appropriate use of Blood Components

Expectations

- Attainment of this competence, as outlined within the domains that follow, must be demonstrated by all RNs working in the areas relevant to this practice.
- Where an RN is unable to declare competence an action plan should be devised in collaboration with appropriate support to facilitate the RN in achieving set goals.
- Maintenance of records of competence remains the responsibility of the RN. Where necessary records may be maintained by Unit Managers / Educators / others for the purpose of audit / accreditation.
- This statement of competence should be revisited in line with the relevant standards or as learning needs are identified.

What to do with this completed document

- Please maintain this document as a record of your competence in your professional practice portfolio
- Completion of your competency should be documented on Trendcare during your annual appraisal.

The following resources are available to support education and training.

- Blood Transfusion Policy
- Blood Transfusion Consent and Documentation Guideline
- Blood Transfusion Administration of Fresh Blood Products Guideline
- Blood Transfusion Website
- ARCBS website (www.transfusion.com.au)
- Transfusion Nurse (page 4948)

Statement of competence for Blood Transfusion

Domains - Attitude	I am able to demonstrate competence	
	Yes	No
Practice reflects the understanding that blood transfusion is the administration of another person's tissue.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appreciates there are risks to the patient associated with blood transfusions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff have a proactive role in recognising and reporting adverse events.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensures practice (knowledge, skills and values) are inline with the hospital policy and clinical practice guidelines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proactive with personal professional development and maintaining current knowledge with regards to blood transfusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Domains - Knowledge	I am able to demonstrate competence	
	Yes	No
Knows how to undertake positive patient identification	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Knows the time limits associated with administration of fresh blood products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a rationale as to why fresh blood products must begin administration within 30 minutes of release from blood bank Provides rationale as to why fresh blood products must be transfused within four hours of commencement. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is able to articulate why some patients need to receive specialised blood products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can identify which patient groups require irradiated blood products Can discuss the reasons for irradiating fresh blood products Can identify which patient groups require leucoreduced blood products Can discuss the reasons for leucoreduction of fresh blood products 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has knowledge of the ABO and Rh blood grouping systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can articulate which blood products are compatible for the patient 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Knows where blood transfusion information for families can be accessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can identify the most common side effects associated with transfusion 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Knows what the minimum observation requirements are for blood transfusions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a rationale for the frequency of transfusion observations Can articulate situations when the observation frequency may need to be increased 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Knows what documentation is required to safely and legally record a blood transfusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Knows how to recognise a blood transfusion reaction (signs and symptoms) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides rationale for reporting of transfusion reactions Articulates actions to take in the event of a transfusion reaction 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Domains - Skill	I am able to demonstrate competence	
	Yes	No
Has the ability to access the blood transfusion resources available at RCH, to assist staff administer blood transfusions safely	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identifies and uses appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling blood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educates the family and child about blood transfusion and the common side effects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can locate available resources for families Demonstrates an ability to discuss common side effects the child may experience during a blood transfusion 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensures the blood to be transfused matches the medical prescription (i.e. leucoreduced, irradiated, correct blood product) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discusses the rationale of why the child requires the blood product they are receiving (red cells, platelets, FFP or cryoprecipitate) Discusses the rationale for any specialised blood products the child is receiving (i.e. irradiated/leucoreduced) Can identify on the blood bag if the product has been irradiated or leucoreduced 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Performs the pre-transfusion check in accordance to the blood transfusion CPG Administration of Fresh Blood Products. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discusses the rationale for each step of the pre transfusion check 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensures all fresh blood products are administered within the time limits for transfusion set out in the blood transfusion policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assembles the correct equipment for blood transfusion, including any specialised equipment required. E.g. filters and blood warmers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can discuss the rationale for any specialised equipment used 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Records all required information before, during and after the transfusion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the correct paperwork to complete transfusion documentation 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reacts appropriately to suspected transfusion reactions, as instructed on the reverse of the transfusion record <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can discuss the steps that need to be undertaken if a transfusion reaction is suspected Initiates reporting of a transfusion reaction if one occurs Assesses and treats a child appropriately if a transfusion reaction occurs Liaises with the blood bank to correctly investigate a transfusion reaction 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is able to correctly dispose of completed blood product bags and other equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can discuss the rationale for disposing of blood product bags safely. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I have read and understand the RCH policy / guideline related to Specimen labelling and Blood Transfusion, and agree to maintain my practice at the standard expressed within these boundaries. I concur that I practise competently within the above domains (all yes boxes marked) or have developed an action plan (attached) to facilitate my development (some no boxes marked). *The RCH RN Professional Development Action Plan template is available on*

Name

Signed _____

Date: