

## BL - Blood Transfusions

### BL-C            COMPLICATIONS

**OUTCOME:** The patient/family will understand the potential complications of blood transfusions and the potential complications that might result from withholding blood transfusion.

#### **STANDARDS:**

1. Explain that there are two potential major complications from blood transfusions that occasionally occur.
2. Explain that the patient may develop volume overload as a result of the blood transfusion, particularly if the patient is a neonate, elderly, or has cardiopulmonary disease. The symptoms which should be reported to the nurse immediately may include:
  - a. Restlessness
  - b. Headache
  - c. Shortness of breath
  - d. Wheezing
  - e. Cough
  - f. Cyanosis
3. Explain that a transfusion reaction may occur. Explain that transfusion reactions may be severe and can include anaphylaxis or death. Instruct the patient/family that the following symptoms should be reported to the nurse immediately. Discuss that the symptoms are usually mild and may include:
  - a. Hives
  - b. Itching
  - c. Rashes
  - d. Fever
  - e. Chills
  - f. Muscle aches
  - g. Back pain
  - h. Chest pain
  - i. Headaches
  - j. Warmth in the vein

4. Explain that blood supplies are currently thoroughly tested for blood borne diseases such as HIV or hepatitis. There still remains a small risk of transmission of blood borne disease from transfusion of blood or blood components.

#### **BL-EQ      EQUIPMENT**

**OUTCOME:** The patient/family will have a basic understanding of the use of equipment utilized during blood administration.

#### **STANDARDS:**

1. Explain the indications for and benefits of the infusion equipment, if utilized.
2. Explain the use of equipment utilized to monitor the patient during the blood transfusion.
3. Explain the various alarms that may sound and the proper action to take.
4. Emphasize the importance of not tampering with any infusion control device.

#### **BL-FU      FOLLOW-UP**

**OUTCOME:** The patient/family will understand the importance of follow-up and will make a plan to keep follow-up appointments.

#### **STANDARDS:**

1. Discuss the importance of follow-up care.
2. Discuss the procedure for obtaining follow-up appointments.
3. Emphasize that appointments should be kept.

#### **BL-L      LITERATURE**

**OUTCOME:** The patient/family will receive literature about blood transfusions.

#### **STANDARDS:**

1. Provide the patient/family with literature on blood transfusions.
2. Discuss the content of the literature.

#### **BL-S      SAFETY**

**OUTCOME:** The patient/family will understand the precautions taken to ensure that blood transfusions are safe and provide minimal risk for disease transmission or increased health risk.

#### **STANDARDS:**

1. Explain that blood collecting agencies make every effort to ensure that the blood collected for donation is safe. Explain that blood donors are carefully screened

through a medical and social history before they donate blood and that donated blood is thoroughly tested to make sure it is free from disease or infection.

2. Explain that the laboratory carefully tests donated blood and the patient's blood to make sure that they are compatible.
3. Explain that two nurses will check to verify that the transfusion is intended for the patient and that it has been properly tested for compatibility.
4. Explain that the patient will be closely monitored by the nursing staff during the transfusion so that any complications or reactions will be identified and treated immediately.
5. Explain that it is the responsibility of the patient/family to report any suspected reactions immediately.

## **BL-TE TESTS**

**OUTCOME:** The patient/family will understand the test(s) to be performed, the potential risks, the expected benefits, and the risks of non-testing.

### **STANDARDS:**

1. Explain test(s) that have been ordered (explain as appropriate):
  - a. method of testing
  - b. necessity, benefits, and risks of test(s) to be performed
  - c. any potential risk of refusal of recommended test(s)
  - d. any advance preparation and instructions required for the test(s)
  - e. how the results will be used for future medical decision-making
  - f. how to obtain the results of the test
2. Explain test results:
  - a. meaning of the test results
  - b. follow-up tests may be ordered based on the results
  - c. how results will impact or effect the treatment plan
  - d. recommendations based on the test results

## **BL-TX TREATMENT**

**OUTCOME:** The patient/family will understand the necessity for the blood transfusion.

### **STANDARDS:**

1. Explain that a blood transfusion is the transference of blood from one person to another.

2. Explain that blood transfusions are necessary to treat: blood losses related to surgery or trauma, blood disorders, or cancer or leukemia. Identify the specific reason that the patient requires a transfusion.
3. Explain that there are a variety of blood components available. Describe the blood component that will be administered and explain the necessity as related to the specific injury or disease process.