

Survey on health authority transfusion medicine activities in British Columbia during the COVID-19 pandemic

Thank you for describing the experience of your organization's transfusion medicine service during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please select appropriate answers by checking boxes with **X** and provide as much detail as possible when completing free-text answers (or attach relevant documents if preferred).

A) Changes in supply and demand during the pandemic

1. What approximate decreases did you observe in overall **RBC** transfusion rates between the two periods: **March 15 – May 31 2019** and **March 15 – May 31 2020**?

- 10%
- 20%
- 30%
- 40%
- Other (please specify): _____%

2. Could you comment on any specific specialties or clinical areas that saw either particularly large decreases or no decreases in **RBC** transfusion?

3. What approximate decreases did you observe in overall **platelet** transfusion rates between the two periods: **March 15 – May 31 2019** and **March 15 – May 31 2020**?

- 10%
- 20%
- 30%
- 40%
- Other (please specify): _____%

4. Could you comment on any specific specialties or clinical areas that saw either particularly large decreases or no decreases in **platelet** transfusion?

5. Has your organization experienced any issues with product delivery to patients due to blood supplier shortage?

- Yes No

6. Has your organization experienced any issues with product delivery to patients due to logistics or transportation issues?

Yes No

7. If **yes** to 6, can you please comment on the nature of these issues?

B) Utilization mitigation strategies

1. What strategies has your organization implemented during the pandemic to reduce blood product utilization? How have these changed from pre-pandemic strategies?

- Lab screening of RBCs
- Lab screening of platelets
- Lab screening of other components
- Communications to clinical areas
- Changes to order sets and/or computer provider order entry (i.e. best practice alerts)
- Decreased inventory levels
- Minimization of blood in uncontrolled areas (i.e. blood fridges, platelet shakers)
- Implementation of a Health Authority/Hospital Emergency Blood Management Committee
- Implementation of a Blood Triage Team
- Other (please specify): _____

2. Were any implemented strategies operationally problematic or met with resistance by transfusion or clinical personnel?

- Increased workload on laboratory staff
- Resistance from clinicians to change practice
- Lack of engagement from clinicians given other priorities
- Concerns regarding blood shortage
- Other (please specify): _____

3. Was stakeholder engagement and communication able to resolve issues identified in **2**?

- All issues resolved through engagement
- Majority of issues resolved through engagement
- Minority of issues resolved through engagement
- No issues resolved through engagement

4. What strategies does your organization plan to implement in the event of a yellow phase advisory?

- Lab screening of RBCs
- Lab screening of platelets
- Lab screening of other components
- Communications to clinical areas
- Changes to order sets and/or computer provider order entry (i.e. best practice alerts)
- Decreased inventory levels
- Minimization of blood in uncontrolled areas (i.e. blood fridges, platelet shakers)
- Implementation of a Health Authority/Hospital Emergency Blood Management Committee
- Implementation of a Blood Triage Team
- Other (please specify): _____

5. What strategies does your organization plan to implement in the event of a red phase advisory?

- Lab screening of RBCs
- Lab screening of platelets
- Lab screening of other components
- Communications to clinical areas
- Changes to order sets and/or computer provider order entry (i.e. best practice alerts)
- Decreased inventory levels
- Minimization of blood in uncontrolled areas (i.e. blood fridges, platelet shakers)
- Implementation of a Health Authority/Hospital Emergency Blood Management Committee
- Implementation of a Blood Triage Team
- Other (please specify): _____

6. Were there any Health Authority-specific clinical decisions that influenced transfusion utilization?

- Yes No

7. If **yes to **6**, can you comment on the nature of these decisions?**

8. If there are any initiatives for utilization management you would like to highlight, please do so:

C) Stakeholder engagement for contingency planning and other initiatives

1. What communications have your labs distributed related to the pandemic?

- Green Phase Advisory Memo
- Notification of screening guidelines (if applicable)
- General memos regarding appropriate transfusion utilization
- Communications through Emergency Operations Centres
- Targeted education/memos regarding appropriate transfusion utilization*

*Please specify: _____

2. Has an emergency blood management committee been established within your health authority? If **yes, please indicate involved specialties:**

- Yes No

- Critical Care
- Trauma
- Hematology/BMT
- Surgery/Anesthesia
- Internal Medicine
- Emergency
- Other (please specify): _____

3. Has a process and/or team for blood triage been developed? If **yes, please indicate involved specialties:**

- Yes No

- Critical Care
- Trauma
- Hematology/BMT
- Surgery/Anesthesia
- Internal Medicine
- Emergency
- Other (please specify): _____

4. Has the transfusion medicine service specifically engaged particular groups/areas regarding the ability to provide blood products for patients? If **yes**, please indicate specialties:

Yes No

Critical Care

Trauma

Hematology/BMT

Surgery/Anesthesia

Internal Medicine

Emergency

Other (please specify): _____

5. Have clinical specialties in hospitals specifically engaged the transfusion medicine service regarding the ability to provide blood products for patients? If **yes**, please indicate specialties:

Yes No

Critical Care

Trauma

Hematology/BMT

Surgery/Anesthesia

Internal Medicine

Emergency

Other (please specify): _____

D) Lab staffing and infection control

1. Were any protocols instituted in your organization to account for the possibility of blood product surface contamination when units are issued and returned to the transfusion service?

What specific measures were put in place? Please check all that apply:

Yes No

PPE

Overwrapping components

Surface disinfecting/cleaning of components

Quarantining components; **please specify quarantine period:** _____

Overwrapping plasma products and other blood products

Surface disinfecting/cleaning of plasma products and other blood products

Quarantining plasma products and other blood products; please specify quarantine period:

Other (please specify): _____

2. Were any protocols instituted in your organization to minimize the risk of infection transmission in the transfusion laboratory? What specific measures were put in place? Please check all that apply:

Yes No

PPE

Lab surface disinfectant

Increased physical distancing

Physical barriers (e.g. plexiglass)

Limiting access of non-laboratory personnel (e.g. porters) to lab space

Other (please specify): _____

3. Did the transfusion medicine service determine a list of essential services to be provided in the event of significant under-staffing due to COVID-19?

Yes No

4. If **yes** to **3**, could you please provide a list of services determined to be essential?