

**Philippine Clinical Practice Guidelines
for the Rational Use of
Blood and Blood Products and
Strategies for Implementation**

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Table of Contents

Technical Working Group	v
Scientific Committee and Secretariat	vii
Foreword	ix

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background Discussion on Rational Clinical Use of Blood and Blood Products	
1.1.1 Current Transfusion Practices	2
1.1.2 Review of Existing Policy	4
1.1.3 Background and Rationale of the Clinical Practice Guidelines and Strategies for Implementation	5
1.2 Principles of Rational Clinical Use of Blood and Blood Products	
1.2.1 Risks of Blood Transfusion	7
1.2.2 Definition of Appropriate Transfusion	9
1.3 Objectives and Intended Users of the Clinical Practice Guidelines	11
1.4 How the Guidelines were Developed	12

2.0 Recommendations for the Blood Banking System

2.1 Recommendations on Donor Recruitment and Care	16
2.2 Recommendations on the Process of Blood Collection	18
2.3 Recommendations on Blood Processing and Storage	19
2.4 Recommendations on Transport and Distribution of Blood Products	22
2.5 Recommendations for Pre-transfusion Testing	25

3.0 Recommendations for Clinicians

3.1	Fresh Whole Blood (FWB)	28
3.2	Packed Red Blood Cell (PRBC)	33
3.3	Washed Red Cell	38
3.4	Leukocyte-reduced Red Cell	41
3.5	Irradiated Blood Components (Red Cells, Platelets, Whole Blood, Granulocytes)	43
3.6	Random Donor Platelet (RDP).....	46
3.7	Single Donor Platelet (SDP) or Platelet Pheresis .	50
3.8	Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP)	53
3.9	Cryoprecipitate	57
3.10	Cryosupernate	60

4.0 General Guidelines for Appropriate Blood Administration

4.1	Recommendations on Informed Consent	64
4.2	Recommendations on Pre-transfusion Procedures	65
4.3	Recommendations on Laboratory Pre-transfusion Testing	66
4.4	Pre-transfusion Procedures in Emergency Situation	68
4.5	Recommendations for Pick-up and Delivery Procedures	70
4.6	Preparation of Supplies for Blood Component Administration	71
4.7	Procedure of Patient Identification	75
4.8	Recommendations on Pre-medication	76
4.9	Recommendations to Minimizing Transfusion Risks	77
4.10	General Recommendations for Monitoring	78

5.0 Alternative to Blood Transfusion

5.1	Blood-Sparing Strategies	84
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6.0 Recommended Strategies for Implementation

6.1	Identification and Assessment of Strategies for Implementation	92
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References	96
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Foreword

Blood transfusion can transmit infectious agents, including HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Syphilis and Malaria as well as other diseases to the recipient. It is very important that blood products be manufactured, stored and transported according to technical standards. Appropriate utilization of blood products is imperative to ensure patient safety. This Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) addresses issues that could affect the quality, safety, availability and accessibility of blood and blood products. It was developed using a set of principles that define a good policy process and a structured approach to policy formulation. The clinical practice recommendations were based on up-to-date scientific, medical and epidemiological evidence, with due consideration of economic, ethical and social factors. They were made in the interest of public health and to promote optimal use of available resources.

The recommendations can be used by hospital and blood bank services both in the public and private sectors to guide them in upgrading their facilities and capabilities. Efforts must be made by these facilities to acquire equipment that allow optimal processing and storage of blood products. The recommendations should also guide training programs for health personnel on the rational use and proper administration of blood products. Judicious use of funds by both the public and private sectors will be promoted by this guideline.

This CPG may also be used as a guide for the phased implementation of the DOH Administrative Order 2008-0008. Boosted by a good voluntary blood donation program, adequate blood component supply will be ensured. The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) can also use this CPG to raise the standards of transfusion practice in this country. Approving reimbursements only for blood transfusion in accordance with clinical indications, using components derived only from purely voluntary blood donation will improve health outcomes.

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and its partners in the private sector may also benefit from this CPG. National coordination of blood services through partnership with both the private and public sectors

will optimize utilization of available resources. Public money is limited and there are private organizations with enough resources who can contribute to the blood donation program.

Universal compliance to the recommendations by all medical and paramedical professionals will result in better health outcomes for patients requiring blood transfusion interventions.



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