

FOREWORD

The purpose of this Resource Manual for Medical Directors of Transfusion Medicine is to provide support and guidance to physicians responsible for transfusion medicine services in the Province of Ontario. It provides a framework outlining sound transfusion laboratory practice, and seeks to advocate for appropriate current practices in the use of both labile blood components and manufactured products. The manual may also serve to assist Medical Directors of Transfusion Medicine Services in their interactions with hospital administration and medical staff in remediation of shortcomings in Transfusion Medicine resources and practices, and also in the area of promotion of education in Transfusion Medicine.

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The British Columbia Blood Programs Coordinating Office for granting copyright permission to use their document by the same name as a template for the Ontario version.

Dr. Allison Collins and Dr. Peter Pinkerton who reviewed and edited the document and the contributors and material reviewers of the first edition of the Policy Manual for Medical Directors of Transfusion Medicine.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Ontario Regional Blood Coordinating Network welcomes queries regarding this edition of the Resource Manual for Medical Directors of Transfusion Medicine, and invites suggestions for improvements in future editions. Please refer to www.transfusionontario.org for contact information.

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INTRODUCTION

This Resource Manual for Medical Directors of Transfusion Medicine has been produced by the Ontario Regional Blood Coordinating Network, acting under the authority of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. It is intended to provide a guide towards the operation, consistent throughout the Province, of the Transfusion Medicine Services by Ontario hospitals, within the context of the capacity of individual institutions of variable size and complexity.

The Manual recognizes the need to comply with the standards defined by the Canadian Standards Association (CAN/CSA Z902) and the Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine (CSTM) and may be used as a guide to determine where there are deficiencies in practice and the measures necessary to remedy these deficiencies. The policies, procedures and processes presented may not address all clinical eventualities and are not intended to replace a physician's clinical judgment nor the need for consultation with an expert in transfusion medicine.

It is recognized that the implementation of the policies, processes and procedures proposed herein may represent a challenge for many institutions which provide Transfusion Medicine services. Thus this document should be regarded initially as a guide to organizing Transfusion Medicine policies and a statement of the policies, processes and procedures to be achieved over time – a kind of “road map” to a destination rather than a statement of the current situation in most hospitals.

