**Overview**

Approximately 900,000 volunteer blood donations must be made each year to provide the millions of blood components and products that support medical therapies for Canadians. Ontario has over 160 hospitals that receive and use these products. This amounts to approximately 50% of the blood transfused within Canada, excluding Québec. In a province with such a high utilization percentage, there is a need to standardize use of blood components between institutions.

In the event of a critical shortage of the blood supply, efforts will need to be made at the hospital/facility level to reduce the use of blood components/blood products affected by the shortage. Shortages can result from:

* Events adversely affecting donor population (e.g. pandemic influenza, low donor attendance)
* Events adversely affecting CBS or other manufacturer ability to collect, test and/or process and deliver blood to hospitals (regulatory failure or catastrophic equipment or building failure, labour disruption, severe weather conditions)
* Unexpected increase in demand for specific blood component/product

In order to ensure blood components and products are available for those patients whose need is life threatening, it will be paramount that hospitals reduce routine use of blood in order to preserve it for these individuals.

#### Mandate

The Hospital Emergency Blood Management Committee (HEBMC) will take a collaborative approach to the development of a Hospital Contingency Plan to address how to manage the use of blood components/ products in the event of a critical shortage in supply: Development of tools regarding:

* adjustment of inventory held on site;
* triage of blood orders;
* deferral of elective surgical and medical procedures requiring blood;
* communication throughout the hospital;
* sharing of blood with other regional hospitals.

The development of the HEBMC is not intended to replace or duplicate existing structures, but to support and enhance the planning, coordination and integration already being undertaken within the hospital, with respect to blood transfusion service delivery.

#### Authority

The HEBMC is an advisory body with the authority to dictate standard operating practices.

Activities will be consistent with the Provincial and National plans to manage shortages in the blood supply with some flexibility to tailor these procedures to address local needs and issues.

During a blood shortage event (Red Phase), the HEBMC will serve as reviewers of the triage decision log sheets to monitor for over triage or under triage of patients. In addition, the HEBMC will serve as liaison for communication with the Ontario Emergency Blood Management Committee.

#### Membership

The HEBMC will have representation from the following Medical/Surgical areas where blood is used:

* Surgery (including Cardiac, Thoracic, Orthopedic, Urology)
* Intensive Care/Trauma/Emergency
* Oncology
* Medical/Hematological (including Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant)
* Pediatric/Neonate

In addition, there will be representation from the Hospital Transfusion Service as well as the Department of Nursing.

#### Key Deliverables

Key deliverables of the HEBMC include:

* Hospital Emergency Blood Management Plan (HEBMP) and training package
* Guidelines for transfusion to aid in screening of blood orders
* Communication plan for fan-out of notification including communication templates to ensure notification in the event of a blood shortage
* Documentation log sheets for recording triage decisions