

Resources for Transfusion Medicine Medical Directors (and for those physicians who take Transfusion Medicine call)

This brief summary of resources is provided for physicians who have been assigned oversight of the Transfusion Medicine Laboratory/Service in their hospitals or who take call for Transfusion Medicine (TM) issues and would like to improve their knowledge of TM. They will be most useful to physicians without extensive TM expertise, but are of interest to any physician who is responsible for or takes call for a TM service. The list is not comprehensive.

ORBCoN Resources

The ORBCoN website is www.transfusionontario.org. There are many practical resources and links on this website, as well as a presentation library. A few are highlighted here:

- Resource Manual for Medical Directors of Transfusion Medicine. This can be downloaded and printed from the ORBCoN website. It not only describes the TM Director's responsibilities but is full of practical recommendations.
- On-line course (free) called Bloody Easy Lite. This is a 2-module e-learning program which covers blood component/product use and transfusion reactions.
- Guidelines, Standards, and Recommendations for various clinical situations and for the utilisation of various blood components and products.
- The Ontario Transfusion Quality Improvement Program (OTQIP), a plan and toolkit for improving blood component utilisation at hospitals. The Using Blood Wisely program (see below) is based on this QIP.
- Books: Bloody Easy 4, Bloody Easy Coagulation, and Bloody Easy Blood Administration. Available on the website, and print copies distributed to Ontario hospitals by ORBCoN without charge.

Journals

There are many journals which publish transfusion medicine research. The following are a few suggestions only:

- *Transfusion*, which is the official journal of the AABB (formerly the American Association of Blood Banks) is published monthly, and is included with membership in the AABB (see below).
- *Transfusion Medicine Reviews*, *JAMA*, and *The New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM) are others.
- Many journals offer Table of Contents alerts sent directly to your email with every issue.
- Your hospital library service may have access to these journals for you on-site or through inter-library loan.

Websites

- Canadian Blood Services (CBS) www.blood.ca. The "Hospitals services/products" section contains much useful information, including the "Circular of Information", which describes the blood products and components provided by Canadian Blood Services.
- <https://professionaleducation.blood.ca/en> is another CBS website, which contains articles, guidelines, and links to educational events
- National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products www.nacblood.ca. Guidelines, recommendations, and policies from Canadian experts.
- Thrombosis Canada at <https://thrombosiscanada.ca/> has guidelines on anticoagulant management and an excellent free app.
- Choosing Wisely Canada www.choosingwiselycanada.org and Choosing Wisely www.choosingwisely.org. Several specialty lists in both campaigns refer to blood transfusion. There is a Choosing Wisely Canada app that is searchable.
- Using Blood Wisely <https://usingbloodwisely.ca/>. This is a quality improvement program, co-sponsored by Canadian Blood Services and Choosing Wisely Canada, which helps hospitals improve red cell utilisation and provides an opportunity for an Accreditation certificate.



- Accreditation Canada Diagnostics (formerly IQMH) <https://diagnostics.accreditation.ca/> The Committee Comments following each Transfusion Medicine survey are discussions about specific topics, often relevant to Medical Directors.
- Blood Bank Guy podcasts at <https://www.bbgyuy.org/>. Experts discuss a wide range of transfusion medicine topics.

Transfusion Medicine Rounds via Webcast

- Monthly University of Toronto Transfusion Medicine rounds. Click on the Webcasting Centre on the ORBCoN main page to view live and archived presentations. Send an email to Stephanie.Cope@sunnybrook.ca to get on the mailing list for notifications of the rounds.
- Weekly rounds for Transfusion Medicine fellows, and other interested parties, sponsored by CBS. Send an email to learn.transfusion@blood.ca to get on the mailing list for notifications.

Books

There is an excellent list on the www.transfusionmedicine.ca website. Some of them are published by the AABB, with member discounts. Suggestions:

- AABB Technical Manual (your blood bank may have this on the shelf)
- Mintz P.D. (ed.) Transfusion Therapy Clinical Principles and Practice 3rd edition, 2011. AABB Press

Canadian and Ontario Standards and Regulations

Links to the websites for these Standards and Regulations are found on the ORBCoN home page.

- The Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine Standards for Hospital Transfusion Services.
- The Canadian Standards Association: Blood and Blood Components
- Institute for Quality Management in Healthcare (IQMH). Accreditation Standards (formerly known as Ontario Laboratory Accreditation or OLA). These refer to the above two standards, and every Ontario hospital must meet them).
- Health Canada Blood Regulations. There is information on the ORBCoN home page and a link to the document itself from the CSTM website.

Professional Associations and Societies

- The Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine (CSTM). www.transfusion.ca. This Canadian society hosts an annual meeting and is excellent value for its membership fee. Check the CSTM website for information about upcoming annual meetings. There are many useful links on the website. CSTM membership includes access to The Transfusion Evidence Library database of systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and health economic evaluations, with optional email alerts to relevant recently-published literature.
- AABB (formerly the American Association of Blood Banks) www.aabb.org.

Practical Experience in a Transfusion Medicine Laboratory

- Book some time with the lead technologist in your transfusion medicine laboratory to learn about their procedures, inventory, test menu, etc.
- Use your contacts to do the same in a larger laboratory if yours is small, with a limited test menu and blood product inventory.

AC/ac
February 1, 2021

