

MLT SCREENING RBC TRANSFUSION ORDERS

ORDER RECEIVED

SCREEN ORDER IF:
Non-Bleeding Adult
&

Transfusion location is Inpatient Unit or Operating Room

Review most recent Hb.
Review patient clinical scenario

DO NOT SCREEN ORDER IF:

Acute Bleeding or Massive Hemorrhage Protocol
&

Transfusion location is
Emergency Department or Outpatient Clinic including
Cancer Care, Medical Day Unit, Dialysis

Hb less than
50-60 g/L

Typically do not require transfusion until Hb is less than 50-60 g/L.

- Patients with sickle cell disease & uncomplicated vaso-occlusive crisis.
- Healthy patients with chronic nutritional anemia & healthy post-partum patients without hemodynamic symptoms (e.g., dyspnea, chest pain, syncope).

Hb less than
70 g/L

Transfusion is likely appropriate.

- Younger adults with no ischemic cardiovascular disease & transient reversible anemia may tolerate lower Hb.

Hb less than
80 g/L

Consider transfusion.

- Patients with uncorrected pre-existing cardiovascular disease.

Hb less than
90 g/L

Consider transfusion.

- Only for patients with clear signs and symptoms of impaired tissue oxygenation.

Hb less than
90 g/L

Transfusion is likely appropriate.

- For patients with acute myocardial infarction (MI). Benefit is uncertain in all MI patients; consider individual patient factors.

Hb greater than 90 g/L

Transfusion is likely inappropriate.

- If transfusion is ordered, indication & rationale clearly documented in the patient's chart.

If order aligns with indication recommendations, transfusion dose is 1 unit.
Re-check of patient symptoms & Hb is required before ordering 2nd unit.

For all other orders & for orders of more than 1 unit:

- Inform prescriber order is outside hospital recommendations, reconsider order.
- If order is not reconciled, follow up with the Transfusion Medicine Physician.