



ENDORSEMENT WITH CAVEATS: Patient Blood Management Recommendations from the 2018 Frankfurt Consensus Conference

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Transfusion of blood components, while potentially a life-saving therapeutic, carry risks and costs which must be considered for their judicious use. Therefore, many health jurisdictions have approaches and programs to support patient blood management (PBM) programs. PBM is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a patient-focused, evidence-based and systematic approach to optimize the management of patients and transfusion of blood products for quality and effective patient care. The main role of the NAC choosing to endorse this document is to serve as a complementary update to provide a contemporary reaffirmation supporting the message within the [NAC Red Blood Cell \(RBC\) Transfusion Policy Framework](#) document published in 2014, as updates in literature have not changed the overall recommendations supporting restrictive transfusion strategies.

Four transfusion medicine experts from the NAC independently utilized the AGREEII (Appraisal of Guidelines for Research and Evaluation) tool to assess the methodological rigour and quality in which the guideline was developed, in accordance with the process detailed in the [NAC Guideline Endorsement Framework](#). The guideline achieved scores deemed acceptable by NAC membership, achieving at least 50% in all Domains and a minimum score of 70% in the Domain of Rigour of Development (Domain 3).

The NAC endorses the Frankfurt PBM recommendations for evidence-based practice with caveats.

- NAC supports the Frankfurt PBM recommendations as being the most current published guideline in the peer reviewed literature in regards to supporting restrictive transfusion strategies and agrees with its recommendations around optimal transfusion strategies.
- The Frankfurt PBM recommendations are limited in providing support and a framework for implementing PBM to target patient populations. Therefore, the NAC instead endorses the use of its [Position Statement on PBM](#) outlining recommendations consistent with best practice and implementation for PBM programs in Canada, notably supporting selective use of erythropoietin stimulating agents.

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