



**NAC ENDORSEMENT:**

**Use of Intravenous Albumin: A Guideline from the International Collaboration  
for Transfusion Medicine Guidelines**



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## **NAC ENDORSEMENT: USE OF INTRAVENOUS ALBUMIN: A GUIDELINE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION FOR TRANSFUSION MEDICINE GUIDELINES**

Intravenous albumin is a human-derived blood product manufactured from donated human plasma, used in many different clinical scenarios including, but not limited to, complications of cirrhosis, intradialytic hypotension, volume resuscitation, and priming of cardiopulmonary bypass circuit. However, it can be associated with adverse consequences including fluid overload, hypotension, hemodilution, anaphylaxis, and peripheral gangrene from dilution of natural anticoagulants. Practice audits and issuing data describe highly variable practice amongst regions given its wide-ranging use with a heterogeneous evidence base. Thus, the International Collaborative for Transfusion Medicine Guidelines (ICTMG) sought to develop evidence-based recommendations (referred to as the ICTMG Albumin Guidelines here), for patient populations in which it used commonly, to guide clinical practice.

Three transfusion medicine experts from the National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products 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. It achieved at least 50% in all Domains and a minimum score of 70% in the Domain of Rigour of Development (Domain 3).

**NAC endorses the ICTMG Albumin Guidelines for evidence-based practice.** The experts above unanimously recommended this guideline for endorsement independently given its methodological rigour, clarity, and relevance, which was also confirmed with NAC membership. The recommendations suggest routine use in many scenarios that cannot currently be justified given the lack of definitive literature and harms reported. The ICTMG Albumin Guidelines demonstrated deficiencies in the Applicability Domain, but facilitators and barriers were sought from external reviewers, resources have been developed, and implementation research is occurring to further inform tools and approaches.

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