
Referral for Blood Transfusion in the Ambulatory Care Unit

Skill Level

MO, RN, EN, Ward Clerk

Policy Statement

Patients are booked into the Ambulatory Care unit by Specialist Medical Officer or General Practitioner. A referral letter is required.

Referrals from General Practitioners must be made directly to the Director of Ambulatory Care or the Medical Officer covering the Director in their absence.

Where possible the patient will be booked for cross-matching of blood on the day prior to the transfusion being administered.

Patients unable to attend Ambulatory Care for cross-matching of blood on the day prior to administration of blood transfusion will need to present to the ward at 8.30am on the day of the appointment.

Outcomes of the Policy

Blood transfusions will be administered in the Ambulatory Care Unit in a timely manner, on one or two consecutive days.

Definitions

Cross-matching of blood: a procedure used to determine the compatibility of the recipient's blood with that of the donor after the specimens have been matched for major blood grouping.

Procedures

1. Patients will present to the Ambulatory Care Unit on the day of appointment at 9.00am to complete necessary administration details relevant to their treatment.
2. Patients will be orientated to the unit and admitted by Medical staff.
3. An IV cannula is inserted and blood is administered according to hospital protocol for administration of blood and blood products.
4. The patient will be discharged from the unit by 1900hrs. If the required number of units is unable to be administered before this time the patient will return the following day to complete the treatment.
5. Further bookings for the patient are attended by the Ambulatory Care Unit staff prior to the patient's discharge.
6. If the patient experiences any complications or is not considered well enough for discharge at this time, the Bed Manager or After Hours Supervisor is contacted to arrange for an inpatient bed.

Policy Implementation

1. Approved policy to be distributed to Ambulatory Care Unit & relevant wards.
2. Manager to publicise and make accessible to staff.
3. Staff are responsible to read on initial distribution and to read to reference practice.
4. Comments on any aspect of the policy to be forwarded to the NUM or Director in Ambulatory Care.

Attachments

None

Related Policies

R6.9.1 Anaphylaxis

R7.9.2 Blood and blood product transfusion

AM5.40 Cannula – insertion of and care

Relevant ACHS Standards / Criteria

ACHS EQulP Guide Version 3, 2002. Criteria 1.2.1, 1.3.1 & 1.4.1.

Relevant Legislation / Australian Standards

None

Approved by

Nursing Practice Committee

Medical CSG

Effective Date

Review Date

Reviewer

NUM Ambulatory Care

End Date

Reference Documents

Anderson, DM 2002, **Mosby's medical, nursing & allied health dictionary**, 6th edn. Mosby, St Louis.