

SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL LABORATORY UPDATE

DATE: July 26, 2010
TO: Medical Staff
FROM: Virginia Burdine, MD, Transfusion Service Medical Director
SUBJECT: Transfusion Guidelines Revision

The Saint Francis Hospital Transfusion Committee has revised the criteria used to evaluate the appropriateness of blood, plasma, and platelet transfusions at Saint Francis Hospital. These guidelines are based on the current medical literature and reflect standard of practice in most institutions. A brief summary of the major changes is included below. The transfusion committee recognizes that any given patient may have extenuating clinical circumstances that require a physician's own medical judgment as to the appropriateness of a transfusion. However, we suggest that every physician make themselves aware of the current transfusion guidelines in place at SFH.

Separate guidelines for both adult and pediatric patients are now available on HealthNet under Laboratory Services, with appropriate indications for special needs associated with transfused products (e.g., irradiation, CMV-negative, etc) also listed.

Highlights of Transfusion Guidelines – Saint Francis Hospital, 2010

- Transfusion of **RBC's** is indicated when **H/H is <7g/21% or <9g/27% when there is a documented history of CAD, CVA, cerebral vascular disease or hypoxia**
- Transfusion of **platelets** is indicated when platelet count is **<15,000**. Higher thresholds are indicated if there is documented platelet dysfunction, or certain clinical and laboratory criteria are met. (Refer to complete guidelines for details.)
- Transfusion of **cryoprecipitate** is indicated when the **fibrinogen is <100 mg/dL**. (Refer to complete guidelines for additional indications.)
- Transfusion of **plasma** is indicated when the **INR exceeds 1.5**. (Refer to complete guidelines for additional indications.)

Questions regarding the new transfusion guidelines can be directed to Dr. Virginia Burdine at 494-1420, Transfusion Service Medical Director, or Dr. Martina Hum at 502-6720, Transfusion Committee Chairperson.