Healthcare Organization Commitment

Contact Details

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Position
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Commitment Details

Commitment Name
Reducing donor blood transfusion, which can lead to unnecessary patient harm

Participants
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What Patient Safety Challenge does your Commitment address?
Challenge 5 - Patient blood management
Commitment Start Date
03/02/2014

How Many Hospitals Will This Commitment Represent
1

Commitment Summary
We are committed to reducing donor blood transfusion, which can lead to unnecessary patient harm. Donor blood transfusions are the most commonly performed procedure in US hospitals today, yet they have been determined to be one of the five most overused treatments administered to patients. While some patients may benefit from blood transfusion, evidence shows that the majority of transfusions are given to patients with no real evidence for their expected benefit, and in the absence of benefit, patients are subject only to risk and injury at high cost.

By correcting anemia and coagulation issues, using available blood conservation techniques, and involving patients in decision making, exposure to blood can be dramatically reduced, leading to increased safety, better outcomes and reduced costs.

Organized patient blood management programs create the structure in which care is focused on modifying risk factors and improving conditions that lead to transfusion, sparing patients needless risk and injury.

Commitment Description & Detail
We are committed to providing standards for Patient Blood Management to all hospitals and clinicians. In order to accomplish this, we have published our second edition of comprehensive Patient Blood Management Standards. In addition we have created a Quality Guide, a document to assist hospitals in implementing strategies and initiatives that improve patient safety in this area.

These standards are provided at no cost online for use by any hospital or clinician who wishes to implement them.

Action Plan
We intend to partner with organizations and institutions committed to patient safety and improved health outcomes. This includes: 1. Publishing the Patient Blood Management Standards in a peer reviewed medical journal. 2. Providing relevant information to CMS and other payers to support competing strategies to donor blood transfusion. 3. Working with accreditation and regulation agencies to support certification programs in patient blood management.

Commitment Timeline
We currently have The Clinical and Administrative Standards for Patient Blood Management Programs available online at www.sabm.org. In addition, a Quality Guide to measure
effective implementation is available. In 2014, we intend to publish these standards in an indexed medical journal for wider distribution and recognition. Our commitment will also be carried out through comprehensive education, and our 2014 annual meeting in Houston, Texas will provide the most current clinical and scientific information on Patient Blood Management. As time goes on, we will continue to increase the number of our affiliated hospitals across the United States and Canada, committed to the organized and structured Patient Blood Management Program Standards.