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Nursing Management of the Bloodless Surgery Patient

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Nursing Management of the Bloodless Surgery Patient

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Introduction

- Evidence-based medical/surgical techniques to conserve a patient's own blood optimize post-surgical patient outcomes by:
  - Lessening complications
  - Hastening recovery time
  - Reducing costs
  - Decreasing inpatient length of stay
  - Increasing patient satisfaction
- Staff within an academic community Magnet® hospital identified opportunities to decrease blood product use, and provide accessible, high-quality care guided by ethical and humanistic principles, by creating a structured bloodless surgery program for patients whom blood is not an option.

Purpose

- Attendees will be able to:
  - Share strategies implemented in the development of a bloodless surgery program
  - Describe the crucial advocacy role of nurses in caring for the bloodless surgery patient

Evidence

- "Given that blood transfusions are the most common procedure performed in U.S. hospitals, and one of the top five overused procedures according to the Joint Commission, it seems prudent that hospitals implement a Patient Blood Management Program." (Frank, S., et al., 2017)
- The therapeutic use of blood carries with it uncommon but potentially fatal complications and these risks have motivated a re-evaluation of current transfusion practice. (Ernest, N., & Okpokam, D., 2019).

Methods

AUG 2019 – NETWORK PATIENT BLOOD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED

- Interprofessional team
  - Medicine, nursing, blood bank, pharmacy, quality, clinical informatics
- Meet monthly
- Created supporting roles:
  - Patient Blood Management Program (PBM) coordinator
    - Provides program oversight
    - Monitors and reports on all transfusion activity
    - Develops and implements protocols/procedures, education
    - Coordinates clinical and community outreach activities, marketing, quality improvement initiatives, and research projects
  - Nursing PBM Liaison
    - Facilitates the clinical and educational activities of the PBM program
    - PBM quality improvement specialist
    - Serve as liaison and resource to patients, providers, families and LVHN colleagues and coordinates outreach services to the LVHN community

TACTICS

- Developed a "No Blood" armband
- Created a process for identification of the bloodless surgery patient
- Consulted the PBM Committee upon admission
- Placed a flag in the electronic health record (EHR)
- Established a 'Best Practice Advisory' – fires in the EHR when blood is ordered on a bloodless patient
- Utilized microtainers as the standard phlebotomy practice to preserve blood
- Educated 3,000 nurses across 3 network campuses on the initiative
  - Unit-based educators delivered electronic and in-person education
  - Facilitated a smooth transition to this standard of care

REFERENCES

[1]Ernest, N. & Okpokam, D. (2019). Bloodless medicine and surgery: A review of practice and consideration of Jehova Witnesses. *Asian Journal of Medicine and Health*, 16(3), 1-7.

[2]Frank S., et al. (2017). Implementing a health system-wide patient blood management program with a clinical community approach. *Anesthesiology*, 127(5),754-764.

[3]Salpeter S., et al. (2014). Impact of more restrictive blood transfusion strategies on clinical outcomes: A meta-analysis and systematic review. *American Journal of Medicine*, 127(2),124-131.

Outcomes

FEBRUARY 2021

- Educated the community on this program – Bloodless Surgery Virtual Education

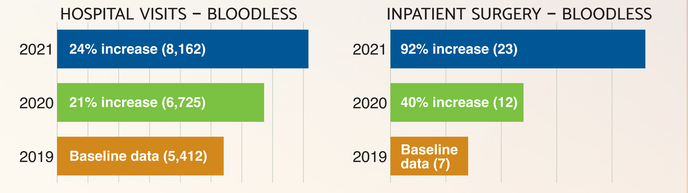
SINCE PROGRAM INCEPTION (AUGUST 2019)

- 24% increase in hospital admissions for this patient population
- 92% increase in the number of bloodless patients who obtained surgery at our network
- Plan to expand Bloodless Surgery Program across all 9 network campuses

JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021 BLOODLESS PATIENT VOLUME DETAIL

Patients requesting or identified as "Bloodless"

- FYI #1002 – 'Blood products refusal'
- Provider-entered problem list – Refusal of blood products
- Religion code – Jehovah's Witness



Lessons Learned

- Include bedside point-of-care nurses in front-line decisions and processes
- Collaborate with the supply distribution team to ensure supplies are readily available
- Provide patient testimonials in nursing education to increase understanding and sensitivity in this population

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