

THE TRANSFUSION COMMITTEE: PUTTING SAFETY FIRST

Edited by Sunita Saxena, MD and Ira A. Shulman, MD

The Transfusion Committee of a hospital has evolved from being one of merely doing blood utilization review to assuming greater responsibility for patient safety, the focus of many accrediting organizations such as JCAHO, CAP and AABB. The role of the Transfusion Committee is well expressed in the book beginning in the first chapter, *Justification and Organization*, to promote the safe and effective use of blood and blood components which is the core idea of blood management.

This easy-to-read handbook then progresses to outline the responsibilities of the Transfusion Committee in detail and in an organized manner. It begins with the organization and justification of a committee to implementation and management, including strategies to minimize transfusion.

The content of the book is well organized, written by authorities in the field and supplemented by appendices containing forms and templates which are also on a disc that can be downloaded and modified to suit each institution. The chapters are well written with current references, are succinct and contain adequate information to run an effective committee. Chapters on the role of the blood center in the Transfusion Committee and conflict of interest enhance the intent of the book. The chapter on *Quality Management and Quality Tools* offers practical advice about the tools for data collection; measurement; and action and follow up.

This book will be a useful tool for transfusion services directors, quality assurance officers, patient safety officers, hospital administrators, clinical pathologists involved in transfusion as well as clinicians involved with transfusion. The book fulfills its objective of offering a “fresh perspective on the purpose of the Transfusion Committee.”

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