

## **Medical Directive for the Management of Perioperative Anemia**

**Approved by and Date: January 18, 2005**

### **Authorized to whom**

The Transfusion Nurse Coordinator (TNC) is a Registered Nurse. The TNC has gained the necessary knowledge, skills and judgement through extensive educational activities provided by Ontario Transfusion Coordinators (ONTraC) Network. The TNC works collaboratively with the Laboratory Physician most responsible for Hematology/Transfusion Services.

### **Medical Directive Description**

This medical directive will enable the TNC to order the following blood work for patients undergoing an elective surgical procedure listed in the Maximum Surgical Blood Ordering Schedule (MSBOS)<sup>1</sup> if there is the potential for administration of blood /blood products:

CBC, Iron studies, Ferritin, RBC Folate, Vitamin B12.<sup>2</sup>

The CBC results will determine if the remaining blood work will be ordered. A copy will be sent to the physician responsible for Hematology/Transfusion Services or delegate and the patients' Health Care Provider (HCP).

### **Patient Description / Population**

The patient has consented to an elective surgical procedure, which may require transfusion.

The patient has been referred to the TNC for perioperative anemia assessment.

### **Identify relevant Delegated Control Act or Added Skill associated with this Directive**

The TNC has extensive knowledge and experience related to Transfusion Medicine therapy and is able to discuss the risks, benefits and alternatives to treatment. The TNC will discuss transfusion and blood conservation strategies with the patient based on laboratory results<sup>3</sup> and surgical procedure.<sup>4</sup>

### **Specific conditions/circumstances that must be met before the Directive can be implemented**

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<sup>1</sup> Lakeridge Health, Laboratory Manual. (2003). Preadmission Laboratory Testing for Elective Surgery. Maximum Surgical Blood Ordering System.

<sup>2</sup> Eprex® Epoetin alfa. (2003) Product Monograph.

<sup>3</sup> College of Nurses Of Ontario

<sup>4</sup> Lakeridge Health. Perioperative Blood Conservation Program: Management of Perioperative Anemia Algorithm (2004)

TNC will discuss risks and benefits of transfusion and alternatives therapies with patients undergoing an elective surgical procedure in accordance with the MSBOS.<sup>5</sup> The TNC may obtain consent from the informed patient.

### **Contraindications to the implementation of the Directive**

The patient is deemed incompetent to make an informed decision<sup>6</sup>, regarding consent for transfusion, or alternatives.

The patient has comorbidity(s), which are contraindications to alternatives to transfusion.<sup>7</sup>(Appendix B)

### **Documentation requirements**

The TNC will document on the Health Team Progress Notes all discussions with patients and will also indicate on the physicians order sheet that this medical directive has been instituted. The patients' HCP will be notified if any blood conservation strategies are initiated.

### **Review/Evaluation Process (how often/by who)**

This Medical Directive will be reviewed in six months and then yearly

### **Related Documents**

### **References**

See footnotes

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<sup>5</sup> Lakeridge Health Consent and Capacity Policies.

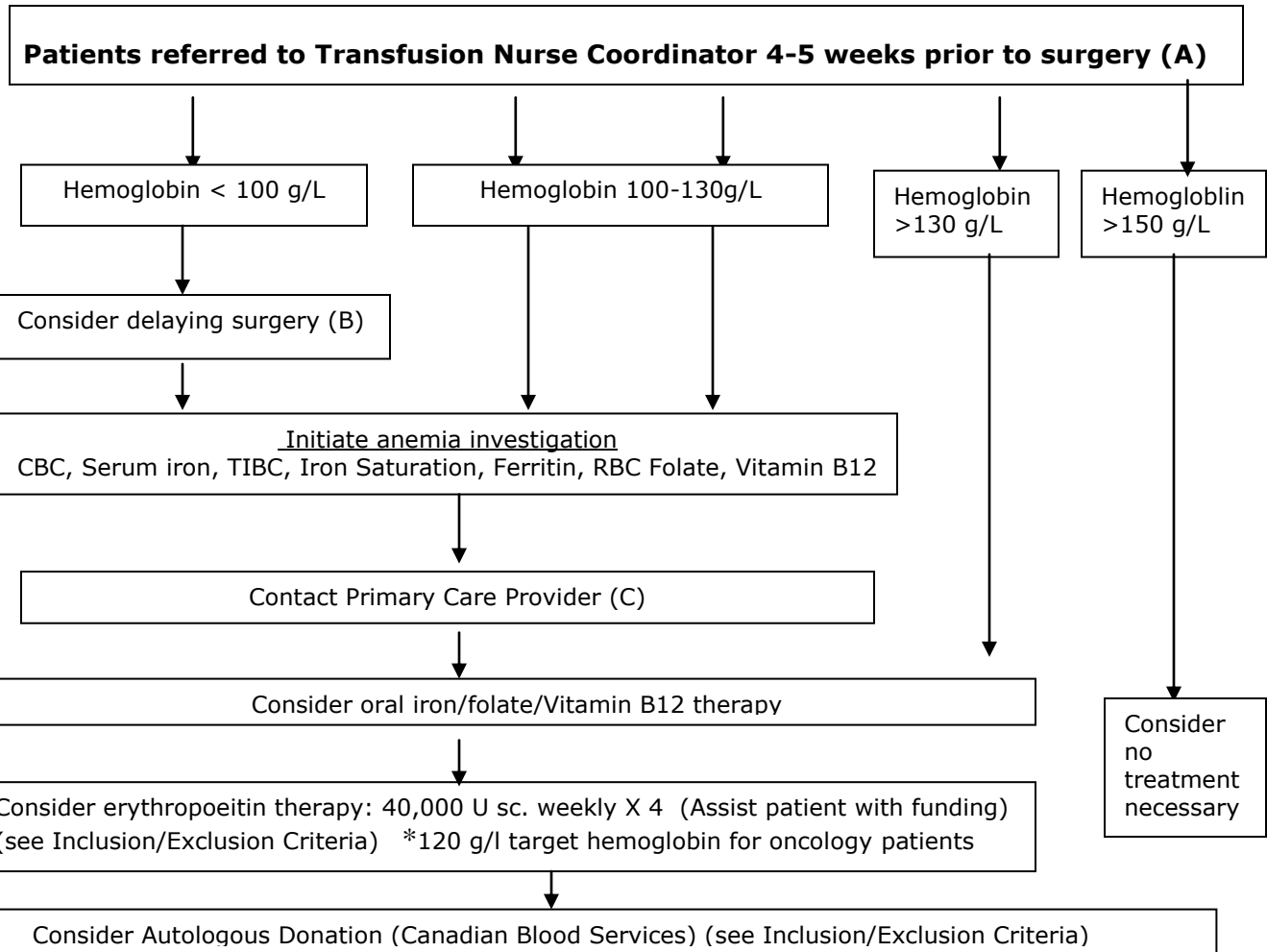
<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Eprex® Epoetin alfa. Product Monograph. (2003)





**Appendix B**  
**Lakeridge Health**  
**Perioperative Blood Conservation Program**  
**Management of Perioperative Anemia**



- A) Transfusion nurse will provide patients with health teaching regarding iron therapy, erythropoietin, potential transfusions and blood conservation strategies.  
 B) Surgical postponement to be determined by surgeon and/or family physician.  
 C) Primary Care Practitioner will receive notification of enrolment in blood conservation program

**References:**

1. Epoetin Alpha product monograph. (2004)
2. Perioperative Blood Conservation Surgical Algorithm. (2003)
3. St. Michael's Hospital Perioperative Blood Conservation Program: Management of Perioperative Anemia. (2002)