Using Multi-Disciplinary Education to Promote Blood Conservation During Cardiac Surgery

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Transfusion practice can vary extensively for patients undergoing cardiac surgical procedures. This variability has led to high utilization of blood products despite the evidence that administration of allogenic transfusions negatively impact patient outcomes and long term survival.

A review of the literature confirmed that transfusion practice variability was largely associated with failure to recognize the importance of the healthcare team.

Project outcomes included: a) Improvement in clinician knowledge related to the STS Blood Conservation CPGs; and b) Decreased blood product utilization for patients undergoing cardiac surgical procedures.

Participants’ scores reflected an improvement in the overall knowledge of the STS CPGs noting a 31.1% (p=0.012) increase in the number of participants whose practice reflected the Blood Conservation CPGs post intervention.

Additionally, there was a reduction in utilization of packed red blood cells (PRBCs) of 8.4% for coronary artery bypass (CAB) and 15.2% for CAB/valve replacement procedures noted post intervention.