

TRANSFUSION MEDICINE IN THE HOME:

Designing and Implementing a program in the Calgary Zone for Community Paramedics to Administer Blood Transfusions to Patients in Their Home

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THE NEED



Improve access to care and patient experience

Blood transfusions improve quality of life, particularly for patients living with chronic disease or at end of life



- ✗ Travel to and from hospital is time consuming and can often be stressful for patients and their families
- ✗ Some patients are so frail, they require ambulance transport to and from hospital transfusions
- ✗ Acute care outpatient clinics and the emergency department face challenges with capacity

The Idea...



Blood Transfusions at Home instead of Hospital

The Solution

Provide blood transfusions to patients in their home to improve access and patient experience



THE PILOT

AHS EMS Calgary Zone Community Paramedic Program
Calgary Lab Services - Transfusion Medicine
Tom Baker Cancer Centre



Standards
Project Management
Change Management
Equipment & Logistics
Education & Training
Medical Oversight
Evaluation & Metrics
Communication
Collaboration



Evaluation

Patient Safety

0 adverse events or poor outcomes

100% of patients remained in the home 48 hours after transfusion

Patient & Family Experience

"I felt safe"

"there was a sense of stillness at home"

"I was very comfortable, relaxed and relieved"

"Reduces everyone's travel time, juggling of schedules"

"My caregivers know I'm in good hands"

"Compared to in hospital to be in your own home is comforting"

Lessons Learned

- ✓ more drop off sites to return equipment
- ✓ refinement of home transfusion referral criteria
- ✓ all transfusions reviewed & approved by a Transfusion Medicine physician
- ✓ post-transfusion phone call
- ✓ transfusion booking checklist
- ✓ refinement of the home transfusion information package for referring physicians
- + all recommendations implemented

THE PROGRAM



Since October 2015

50+ patients



130+ transfusions



Savings In...

- acute care outpatient & emergency department beds- saving beds for treatments not currently offered in the community
- time for caregivers, families and patients - helping reduce caregiver overload, time off work
- cost of treatment - the cost of a home transfusion is less than that in hospital
- Unnecessary EMS transports

...improving access to transfusions, quality of life and patient experience



What's next?

expanding and scaling the model to other zones

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page12557.aspx>
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