
The Spot Audit: Alternative Method

**Using
Blood
Wisely.**

An initiative of:
Choosing Wisely Canada
Canadian Blood Services
Héma-Québec

Single Unit Transfusion

The Using Blood Wisely method counts a single unit transfusion as one RBC unit given on a calendar day. Some hospitals may want to look at data more closely using an alternative method. Using the alternative method, for example, if 2 units are given on a single day and there is a hemoglobin check in between the units, these could be counted as 2 single unit transfusions. The denominator is the number of transfusion episodes as defined by having a Hb prior and after the transfusion before the next transfusion(s).

Pre-Transfusion Hb 80 g/L or Less

The Using Blood Wisely method counts the most recent Hb prior to the transfusion and does not take into account any intervening RBC units. Some hospitals want to look at data more closely using an alternative method. Using the alternative method, a pre-transfusion Hb is included as long as it occurs immediately before a RBC unit transfusion without any intervening transfusion. The denominator would be the number of pre-transfusion hemoglobin levels recorded.

For example, say in one calendar day a pre-transfusion Hb is 83 g/L and then 3 units are transfused before another Hb is done. The simplified Using Blood Wisely method counts a pre-transfusion Hb of 83 g/L for each of these transfusion units (3 entries). Using the alternative method a pre-transfusion Hb of 83 g/L would only be counted for the first unit (1 entry).

A validation was performed using both the simplified Using Blood Wisely method with the alternative method and the results were similar. Please ensure that you choose one method throughout your intervention. You will be asked to report which method you used on your designation form.