

**CHANGE PACKAGE: RED BLOOD CELL TRANSFUSIONS FOR NON-BLEEDING, HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS**

***What are we trying to accomplish?***

Physicians and other leaders in transfusion medicine have developed Choosing Wisely recommendations to help reduce unnecessary red blood cell transfusions. Their goal is to improve the appropriate use of red blood cell transfusions while reducing the potential for harm associated with unnecessary red blood cell transfusions.

***How can I use this change package?***

You can use this change package to review your hospital's transfusion processes and identify areas for improvement.

This package contains:

- Resources to get you started
- Sample indicators to track your progress
- Links to an online forum where you can connect with others working on this change idea

***Getting started resources:***

Choosing Wisely partners and others have developed several resources to help you get started with your local initiative and connect with others to find out how they are implementing their changes.

- [Diving Into Overuse in Hospitals](#): A Choosing Wisely Canada starter kit for reducing unnecessary tests and treatments in hospital and for becoming a Choosing Wisely Canada hospital.
- [Why Give Two When One Will Do](#): Inspired by improvements made at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, this toolkit was created jointly by the Ontario Transfusion Quality Improvement Plan Committee, Ontario Regional Blood Coordinating Network, Ontario Transfusion Coordinators, and Choosing Wisely Canada.
- [Ontario Transfusion Quality Improvement Plan Guidance Document for Institutional Implementation](#): A guidance document that provides links to templates and tools for initiating and tracking improvement in a quality improvement plan format. For additional Choosing Wisely resources and others, the [Ontario Regional Blood Coordinating Network's Quality Improvement Plan page](#) can help improve appropriate red blood cell transfusions.
- [Quorum](#): An online community dedicated to improving the quality of health care across Ontario. Find examples from other hospitals working to reduce unnecessary red blood cell transfusions.
- [Hospital Quality Improvement Plan](#): A public commitment to meet quality improvement goals. Incorporating Choosing Wisely recommendations into your Quality Improvement Plan as a custom indicator will help align quality improvement efforts for more effective change.

***Suggested indicators:***

Aligning your hospital's transfusion practices with Choosing Wisely recommendations can provide a starting point for tracking and making improvements. The Choosing Wisely Canada [Why Give Two When One Will Do](#) toolkit and [Ontario Transfusion Quality Improvement Plan](#) suggest the following measures to assist with understanding baseline and tracking improvement:

- Percentage of red blood cell transfusions occurring when pretransfusion hemoglobin (Hb) is less than 80 g/L
- Percentage of single unit (at a time) transfusions