
Overview

This standard covers the actions involved in managing blood levels during an intervention. This is likely to take place in an operating area within the EUSC environment. It involves the pre-planned approaches that need to be considered and implemented to optimise blood levels during this time, including the role of blood salvage, transfusions, the impact of anaesthesia and other relevant pharmaceuticals such as antifibrinolytic drugs. It does not cover reacting to emergency situations and blood loss.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

SFHEUSC20

Use pre-planned methods to manage blood loss

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 ensure that any special circumstances or requirements have been taken into account when options for minimising blood loss are considered or chosen
- P2 apply standard precautions for infection control and other relevant health and safety measures, and wear personal protective clothing and additional protective equipment as appropriate
- P3 ensure that the correct pharmaceutical intervention of the required dilution and dose is given or applied appropriately to optimise blood levels, in line with national legislation and local protocols
- P4 comfort and reassure the individual in circumstances where the individual is aware of what is going on around them and where possible, minimise factors which may cause undue stress or distress to the individual within the constraints of the setting and the procedure
- P5 ensure that pain management techniques are implemented appropriately when required to minimise discomfort and trauma to the individual
- P6 monitor the individuals relevant physiological parameters and respond appropriately to any indications that blood loss is not being managed effectively
- P7 identify the source of blood loss during the intervention and ensure that the appropriate options for managing blood loss are initiated, in line with relevant protocols and guidelines and taking into account:
 - P7.1 the type and severity of blood loss
 - P7.2 the type of injury
 - P7.3 the type of intervention
 - P7.4 the location/accessibility of the haemorrhage/injury/intervention
- P8 manage blood loss effectively to ensure that:
 - P8.1 the intervention can be concluded successfully, with minimum blood loss
 - P8.2 post-intervention activities to restore optimum blood quantity and quality can be kept to a minimum
 - P8.3 post-intervention materials can be safely applied or attached to the individual
- P9 respect the privacy, wishes, dignity and confidentiality of the individual throughout your interaction with them
- P10 maintain timely, accurate, complete and legible records in accordance with local policies and procedures and work at all times within appropriate patient and information confidentiality guidelines and protocols
- P11 work within your scope of responsibility and accountability, referring to others where appropriate and/or necessary

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Use pre-planned methods to manage blood loss

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the current European and national legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols which affect your work practice
- K2 your responsibilities under the current European and national legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols on your actions within the EUSC environment
- K3 the policies and guidance which clarify your scope of practice and the relationship between yourself and other members of staff in terms of delegation and supervision
- K4 policies and guidance relating to the moving and positioning of individuals and the impact they have upon your work
- K5 the principles of asepsis in relation to the management of blood loss, the maintenance of the sterile field and the potential consequence of poor practice
- K6 the importance of following standard precautions relevant to the activity to be undertaken and the protective clothing which may be worn for the individual's and your protection
- K7 the potential consequences of poor practice in relation to the application of standard precautions
- K8 your role and the importance of working within your own scope of practice
- K9 the roles and responsibilities of other team members working on an intervention
- K10 the appropriate methods, procedures and techniques for the management of blood loss
- K11 the processes you would go through in locating and evaluating the source and severity of blood loss
- K12 the processes you would go through in determining the most appropriate technique to be applied for the management of blood loss
- K13 how to practise in such a way as to minimise the risk to individuals of harm or error
- K14 the risk assessment and scoring systems for an individual undergoing an EUSC intervention
- K15 the types of problems that might arise during the course of the intervention and the responses that should be made to deal with them
- K16 the principles of local, general and regional anaesthesia
- K17 applied anatomy, general and system specific physiology and pathology and its application to the management of blood loss
- K18 haemostasis and the significance this has in the management of blood loss
- K19 the types, properties, function, effect and contra-indications of the pharmacological agents used to manage blood loss
- K20 the basic complications involved in the management of blood loss and

SFHEUSC20

Use pre-planned methods to manage blood loss

- actions to be taken
- K21 the importance of recording information clearly, accurately and in a systematic manner
- K22 the types of information that must be recorded in relation to different activities
- K23 the importance of recording information as soon after the event as possible
- K24 the materials, tools and equipment necessary for the type of intervention being undertaken, how to use them and the implications of incorrect usage

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Use pre-planned methods to manage blood loss

Additional Information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004): Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments

SFHEUSC20

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Developed by	Skills for Health
Version number	1
Date approved	June 2010
Indicative review date	June 2012
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating organisation	Skills for Health
Original URN	SfH EUSC20
Relevant occupations	Health, Public Services and Care; Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allied; Health Professionals; Healthcare and Related Personal Services
Suite	Emergency, Urgent and Scheduled Care
Key words	emergency care, scheduled care, urgent care