

Example Guidelines for Transfusion and Anemia Management during Blood Product Shortages

These examples are provided to assist hospital transfusion services and medical directors when communicating strategies for conserving blood during inventory shortages.

Example: Suggestions for Outpatient Transfusions During Blood Product Shortages

Hematology/Oncology patient

Symptomatic** or Hgb ≤ 6.5 g/dL: 1 unit red cell transfusion if at all possible

Platelet transfusion for platelet count 10K or less

All 2 unit orders for RBCs or platelets¹ may be reviewed by medical director

Non Oncology patient (Symptomatic with Hgb <6.5g/dL)

Symptomatic** or Hgb ≤ 6.5 g/dL: transfuse 1 unit red cells

- All 2 unit orders are reviewed by medical director

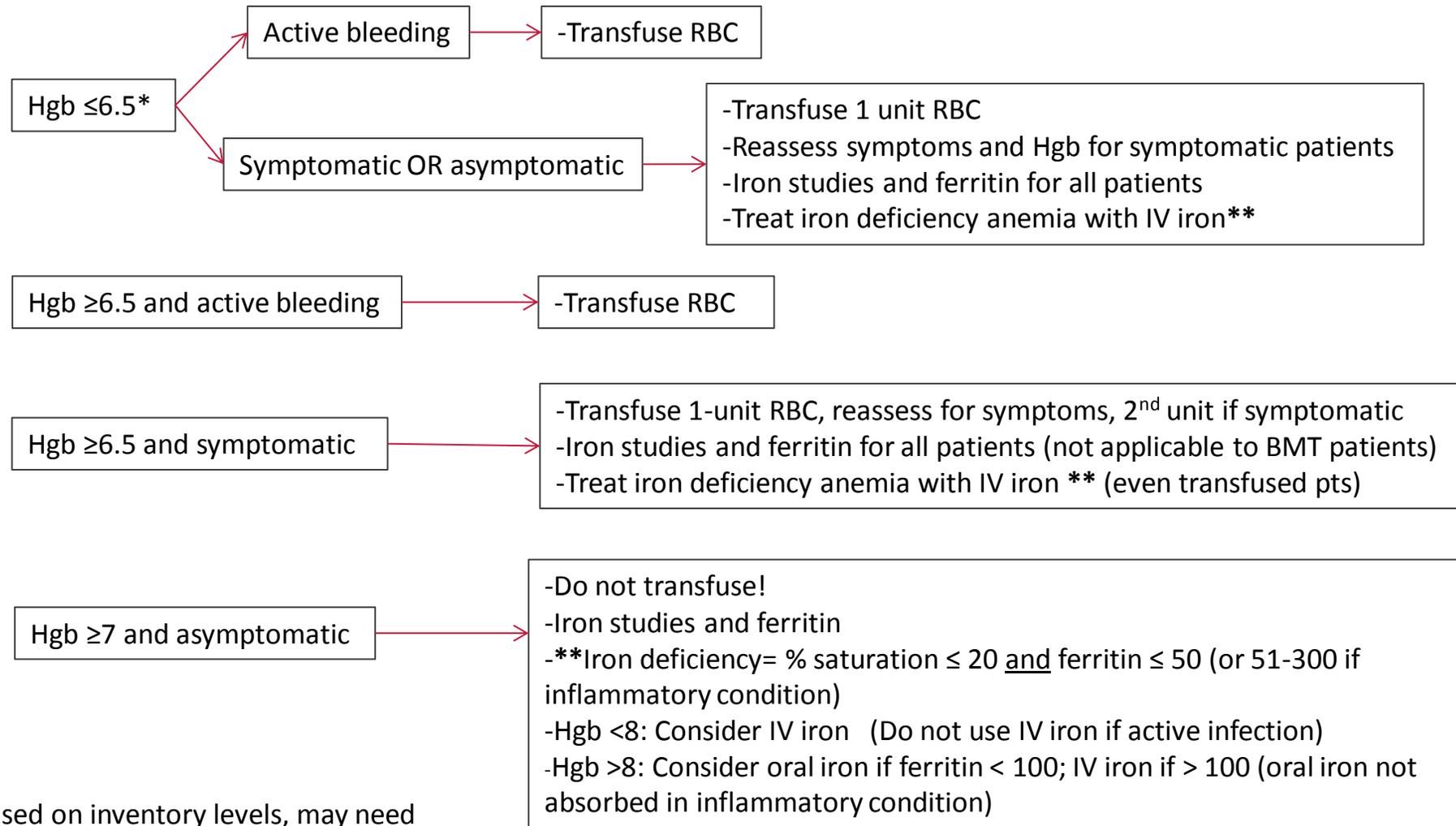
Asymptomatic, Hgb > 7g/dL:

- Consider ordering iron studies for GI, OB and GYN patients
- Treat any iron deficiency per institution protocol

**Symptoms = Hypotension, tachycardia, shortness of breath, NOT fatigue alone.

1. Gehrie EA. Vox Sang 2019; 114:517-522

Example: Suggested Thresholds for Inpatient RBC Transfusions During Blood Product Shortages



Each institution should review the suggestions and medications with pharmacy and providers who manage patients with chronic anemia.
Consider hematology consult for anemia management or use of EPO

*Based on inventory levels, may need to consider Hgb <6g/dL