

KCH ED OBSERVATION UNIT: Transfusions Clinical Guidelines

CRITERIA:

Inclusion

- Consent for transfusion
- Recent labs verifying need for transfusions (anemia or thrombocytopenia)
- History of prior transfusions
- Known medical condition requiring transfusion

Exclusion

- Unstable vitals signs (hypotension, fever)
- Acute, active bleeding
- History of severe transfusion reaction
- Need for exchange transfusion or specialized RBCs product
- Any factor that will preclude discharge within 48 hour
- Any other need for inpatient admission

INTERVENTIONS:

- Serial exams every 4-6 hours
- Serial vital signs every 4 hours
- Telemetry and oxygen saturation monitoring
- IV Fluids as needed
- Blood product transfusion (pRBCs, platelets)
- Type and crossmatch (2nd set if required)
- Diet

Optional

- Tylenol prn
- Repeat hemoglobin/hematocrit

DISPOSITION:

Home:

- Stable vital signs
- Transfusion complete
- Target hemoglobin reached (if done)
- Adequate follow up plan

Admission:

- Unstable vital signs (hypotension, fever)
- Adverse reaction
- Renewed bleeding
- Evidence of fluid overload or CHF
- Another acute process becomes apparent
- Does not meet discharge criteria after observation period

Please note additional orders, such as patient's home medications can be ordered as standing administration.