Success Through Data: Blood utilization rates improve with the help of analytics

Lori Shannon, MBA, RN
Emily Sego, DNP, RN, NEA-BC
Christopher Salerno, M.D.
Peter Walts, M.D.

Methods
Using a data driven approach, our physician led interdisciplinary task force reviewed blood utilization reports for cardiac surgery over a 6-month period. Utilization rates for each type of blood product were included and categorized by phase of surgery in which blood products were administered. Surgeons received an unblinded copy of all reports, including a report with total cost of treatment per case and blood utilization rates by surgeon.

Results
Within the 6-month period, blood utilization rates dropped from 37.8% to 27.7%. The cost per case for blood products went from $573 to $361 with an annual estimated savings of $500,000. Quality outcomes such as, length of stay, mortality, renal failure and readmission rates remained unchanged.

Conclusion
Robust data analytics can assist interdisciplinary surgical teams in lowering blood utilization and costs associated with transfusions while maintaining quality outcomes.

Clinical Implications
Improve blood utilization rates and reduce costs associated with transfusions through the use of robust data analytics and unblinded reporting.

Authors
Lori Shannon, MBA, RN
Emily Sego, DNP, RN, NEA-BC
Christopher Salerno, M.D.
Peter Walts, M.D.

Disclosures
The primary author and co-authors have nothing to disclose.