



PREHOSPITAL
BLOOD TRANSFUSION
INITIATIVE COALITION



January 10, 2025

To: EMS Field Clinicians Participating in Prehospital Transfusion Programs

RE: ePCR documentation of prehospital blood transfusions guidance

[The Prehospital Blood Transfusion Initiative Coalition](#) (PHBTIC) was formed 18 months ago to bring together interested emergency medicine, emergency medical services (EMS), transfusion medicine agencies, emergency services associations, individuals, and vendors in support of prehospital blood transfusion activities for the treatment of hemorrhagic shock.

In January 2024, coalition leaders identified significant variability in field documentation of blood transfusion activities. Discussions were initiated between the coalition, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Office of EMS (NHTSA OEMS), the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) Technical Assistance Center (TAC), the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) and ePCR vendors to propose solutions in support of more accurate prehospital transfusion documentation. In addition to improving the documentation process, the group worked with industry-wide blood transfusion experts to identify critical information to be reported by EMS personnel administering blood transfusions. Capturing and collecting accurate information is critical to the forward progression of Blood Product delivery in EMS.

The NEMSIS TAC and the NASEMSO Data Manager's Council (DMC) are the responsible entities to maintain and revise the National EMS database and data dictionary. Those groups have been working diligently with ePCR vendors to identify the processes for the creation and mapping of all the applicable data elements to allow for necessary and appropriate documentation.

In the interim, EMS Clinicians can immediately implement the following steps to improve prehospital blood transfusion documentation and provide more valuable and usable information to your agency, local/regional EMS transfusion projects, and the overall EMS community to allow us to better understand the status of prehospital blood transfusion activities. We understand agencies may have created custom forms and processes, but please be sure that the information below is included in the patient's electronic patient care report (ePCR) and captured in the appropriate, corresponding fields.

EMS Clinician guide for documenting Blood Product Transfusions

This step-by-step documentation guide is intended for the EMS Clinician to have guidance on proper documentation of the National and state required data elements of the ePCR.

Documentation must be completed in both the Procedures and Medications data elements. Complete documentation provides the ability to analyze blood transfusion at the local/state/National levels.

Step 1: Procedure

When an EMS Clinician administers a blood transfusion, the *Date/Time the Procedure was Performed* must be documented. For *Procedure*, ‘Transfusion of Blood Product’ should be selected, the *Number of Procedure Attempts* recorded, and whether the clinician was *Successful*, documented as ‘yes’ or ‘no’. *Complications* resulting from the procedure must be documented as well as, the *Patients Response* (if any) to the procedure. Finally, document the *Role/Type of the Clinician Performing the Procedure* indicating the EMS Clinician’s licensure level.

Date/Time Procedure Performed	Date/Time
Procedure Performed Prior to this Unit's EMS Care	Yes/No
Procedure	Transfusion of Blood Product
Number of Procedure Attempts	1
Procedure Successful	Yes/No
Procedure Complication	Select Complication(s)
Response to Procedure	Improved/Unchanged/Worse
Role/Type of Person Performing the Procedure	EMS Clinician Level

When blood is administered prior to arrival, document as is customary until a specific Blood Transfusion data set is established for NEMSIS. Any additional information regarding the blood product administration (e.g., blood type, Rh factor, etc.) should be documented in the EMS agencies blood administration form/worksheet, or the narrative section of the ePCR.

Step 2: Medication (blood component) Given

Document the medication (blood component) administered selecting from the available list of blood products.

- Cryoprecipitate
- Plasma
- Albumin
- Platelets
- Whole blood
- Red blood cells (RBC)
- Blood product (other)

Document the *Date/Time the Blood Product was Administered*, the *Route*, *Dosage*, any *Complications* and the *Role/Type of the Clinician administering the medication*.

Date/Time Medication Administered	Date/Time
Medication Administered Prior to this Unit's EMS Care	Yes/No

Medication Administered	Select from List
Medication Administered Route	Intravenous/Intraosseous
Medication Dosage	Enter Dosage
Medication Dosage Units	Enter Dosage Units
Response to Medication	Improved/Unchanged/Worse
Medication Complication	Select Complication(s)
Role/Type of Person Performing the Medication	EMS Clinician Level

When blood is administered prior to arrival, document as is customary until a specific Blood Transfusion data set is established for NEMSIS. Any additional information regarding the blood product administration (e.g., blood type, Rh factor, etc.) should be documented in the EMS agencies blood administration form/worksheet, or the narrative section of the ePCR.

Implementation of this guidance will result in improved documentation and an increased ability to appropriately capture the necessary prehospital blood transfusion clinical data. The NHTSA OEMS, NEMSIS TAC, NASEMSO DMC and agency ePCR vendors will be refining the blood transfusion data set to capture additional information as refinements are being made to EMS blood administration programs.

Please direct any questions or concerns regarding the documentation of blood transfusions to the NEMSIS TAC from their support page here: <https://nemsis.org/support/>.

Questions regarding the development and/or implementation of a blood transfusion program within your agency should be directed to: chair@prehospitaltransfusion.org.