Background

Blood is not given often in the OR at Iowa Lutheran Hospital which leads to nursing anxiety when tasked with blood administration.

- In a six month time period blood was given just five times
- Nurses are unable to maintain competency in administering blood due to the low instances for blood administration

Currently, the nurse must:

- Obtain the Physician IQ4 tip sheet for ordering blood
- Enter the order
- Find the supplies in the store room
- Document that the blood products were given

Question

How can we make ordering and documenting blood administration easier in the Operating Room (OR)?

Literature Review

Literature findings in the past have identified blood transfusions in the OR as an anxiety-producing event with slow turnaround times (Tammello, 2012)

Due to the unpredictable occurrence of intraoperative hemorrhage and need for prompt delivery, optimization in the retrieval and administration of blood has shown to be crucial in the patient’s overall outcome (McClain et al., 2013)

Actions Taken

- Completed a staff survey on confidence level and ways to make the process easier
- With use of staff feedback, a supply kit and tip sheet were created
- Education provided to nursing staff on the new process and tools available for blood administration

Next Steps

Going forward, the blood administration supply kit and tip sheet will be implemented as a resource at Iowa Lutheran Hospital OR. Education will continue to be provided to staff through presentation and UBC on the updated resources.

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References: Available upon request