

# I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PATIENT BLOOD MANAGEMENT

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## What is Patient Blood Management?

Patient Blood Management (PBM) is a coordinated healthcare approach to patient care that focuses on strategies to reduce or avoid the need for a blood transfusion where possible, alongside the appropriate use of blood when a transfusion is needed.

## How is the Blood Service involved in PBM?

The Blood Service has a role in working with health providers to promote safe and effective use of blood and blood products. This ongoing collaboration enhances patient safety and supports the appropriate management and use of donors' blood. The key decisions around patient blood management are made by the patient and treating clinicians. Hospitals, governments and the National Blood Authority all have important roles in managing blood.

## So, how does PBM work?

The main principles of PBM are referred to as the 'three pillars' of blood management:

- Optimising the patient's blood volume and red cell mass. This includes identifying and treating anaemia well before surgery or medical intervention to prevent unnecessary transfusion
- Reducing the patient's blood loss using surgical and anaesthetic techniques, pharmaceutical agents and medical devices
- Harnessing the body's ability to tolerate lower haemoglobin levels, allowing lower transfusion threshold triggers.

## Why is PBM important to the health sector?

PBM optimises a patient's medical care by using a number of different strategies to conserve the patient's own blood. Clinicians are encouraged to follow the principles of PBM and related clinical guidelines. Demand for blood components and products from a limited donor base puts increasing pressure on supply and increases health costs. Reduction in demand by PBM methods will ease the pressure on supply.



## Why is PBM an advantage for patients?

Recent studies suggest that if PBM strategies are used and transfusion is reduced or avoided, patients have fewer complications, faster recoveries and shorter stays in hospital.

## Where do I find information on PBM activities?

Six Australian PBM modules are being developed and further information can be found on the National Blood Authority website: <http://www.nba.gov.au/guidelines/review.html>

Our own Transfusion Clinical Governance Unit is coordinating the Blood Service PBM activities. Further information on Blood Service activities can be found on [www.transfusion.com.au](http://www.transfusion.com.au)

## BLOOD FACT

PBM improves patient outcomes and reduces the demand on the blood supply.