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Patient Blood Management – from Overseas to Local Practices

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Patient Blood Management – Local Perspectives*Lie AKW**Department of Medicine, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong*

Blood transfusion is a well-established treatment modality to support many medical and surgical conditions which range from simple to often complex procedures. Efforts in the past to ensure a safe, efficient and quality blood supply and transfusion service have provided a very positive and reliable image to the general public and medical field alike.

Locally in Hong Kong, based on current trend, the potential demand for blood transfusion is expected to be continuously increasing in coming years. This is due to an increasing and, particularly, aging population associated with expansion of various areas of medical and surgical services. In recent years, there were repeatedly occasions where an adequate supply of blood components was put to the test. While Hong Kong is an established hub for a large volume of interflow between the East and the West, it is also very much exposed to the risk of an expanding array of transfusion-transmitted infection. This puts pressure on the need and resources to ensure an adequate supply of safe blood components, potentially pushing up the production cost of safe blood components.

To meet the above challenges, it is high time to encourage and develop a rational and evidence based practice of patient blood management (PBM). Overseas experience has demonstrated that optimising transfusion activities is associated with improvement in patient clinical outcomes, while at the same time reduce transfusion need together with cost saving economically. As PBM involves significant culture and system changes, engagement of senior clinical and management leadership together with education and promotion amongst every level of health staff is essential.