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**Bridging the Gap from Evidence to Practice Blood Transfusion  
During Hemodialysis: An Evidence-Based Procedure**

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As a Magnet Hospital, UCSD Nurses are charged to be lifelong learners who use evidence as a basis for their practice. Currently, much of nursing practice is based on teaching from school, experience (from past and 'usual' practice), followed by opinion of workplace colleagues. (Salmond, 2007). Dialysis patients require blood transfusion frequently, however, no evidence-based procedure or policy can be found. Responses from the ANNA Nephrology Nursing blog and 'All Nurses' blog re: how blood transfusions are administered during hemodialysis showed there is neither consensus nor 'best practice' for the procedure. It has been found that there is a 17-year lag between new science and its adoption into clinical practice. (Shine, 2001)

A survey was offered on 'Survey Monkey' to UCSD acute hemodialysis nurses re: their current practice for giving blood during hemodialysis, results showed no consensus. A literature search showed no best practice/EBP or research had been published on this topic.

Establishing evidence-based practice requires that we examine our current policies and procedures, ensuring they are developed incorporating current evidence (research & best practices, best patient outcomes) AS WELL AS clinician expertise, patient preferences, and the clinical context. (Salmond, 2007)

This presentation evaluates current practice vs. evidence re: giving blood during hemodialysis. The process was guided by the "Evidence-Based Practice Institute Model" (Brown & Ecoff, 2007) An evidence-based procedure is proposed.

The procedure will be submitted for approval via standard UCSD Medical Center protocol. Nephrology Nursing staff will then be inserviced on the new procedure. Outcomes will be measured using Pre & Post assessments re: actual practice.

Future work to be done on this project include sharing findings with Nephrology Nursing colleagues, and continuing to examine/modify existing procedures to meet the evidence-based standard.

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