The purpose of the 2013 Nursing Case Reviews was to:

- explore the challenges inherent in the delivery of blood products to patients.
- identify opportunities to improve nursing practice related to transfusion therapy.

Initial Case Review: “Transfusion Confusion”

February 2013:
Eight staff nurses conduct a peer review of safety reports related to blood transfusion errors.

March 2013:
Audit results presented during a two hour “Nursing Case Review”:
- Direct care staff discussed three significant cases and identified process gaps.
- 53 RN participants at case review confirmed current findings.
- Ten specific areas of concern were identified to address patient safety.
- Current principles of blood management and education regarding best practice for blood transfusions were provided.

Follow Up

April – September 2013
- Small interdisciplinary task force worked collaboratively to find solutions to identified process gaps.

May 2013
- Follow up “Nursing Case Review” held to share planned process improvements with nursing staff.

September 2013
- Final resolutions completed for nine of the ten identified gaps in the process of blood transfusion administration.

Policies and Procedures:
- Extensive review and updates to two existing policies.
- All policy revisions addressed current standards of The Joint Commission and the AABB.
- New “Guiding Principles” were added to the administration policy to address best practice for blood management.
- New “Transfusion Therapy” electronic resource folder on Faulkner 411 website.

Electronic Documentation:
- Three months post implementation: 66% of records had electronic documentation.

Impact on the Critically Ill Patient

- Blood administration is one of the most commonly performed procedures in the US.
- New Joint Commission “Performance Blood Management Measures” address safety related to blood management.
- Process improvements and education for staff, patients, and families impacts the critically ill patients in any setting.

Purpose

The purpose of the 2013 Nursing Case Reviews was to:

- explore the challenges inherent in the delivery of blood products to patients.
- identify opportunities to improve nursing practice related to transfusion therapy.

Key Outcomes

Nursing Education:
- Two separate HealthStream web based educational competencies developed.
- Administration of Blood Products.
- Blood Transfusion Reactions.
- 90% compliance to educational requirement within one month.

Next Steps:
- Additional follow up will continue focusing on annual educational competencies, electronic documentation and issues related to compliance.