AABB Form for Reporting Adverse Transfusion Reactions to Blood Centers

Frequently Asked Questions

Q 1: What is the purpose of the form?

A 1: This form is meant to open the conversation between a hospital and its blood suppliers about a transfusion reaction. The intent is to include sufficient information for the blood center and hospital to investigate the reaction. The form is designed only for reactions suspected to be attributable to blood product(s), in particular reactions for which there is a potential blood suppliers intervention possible. Examples of these types of reactions include TRALI, septic transfusion reactions, etc. Cases of TACO do not need reporting to the blood suppliers. Data elements associated with TACO are provided to assist the differentiation between various pulmonary reactions. This common reporting form is designed to be used for different blood suppliers, and hence save hospitals with multiple blood suppliers from needing to fill out the same information more than once on different forms.

Q 2: On the form, should we report all the units transfused or only the ones that were provided by each blood supplier?

A 2: The purpose of the form is to make it easier for hospitals to communicate with multiple suppliers. The form should include all units associated with a transfusion reaction, regardless of provider, and then shared with all providers. This will eliminate the need for hospitals to complete multiple blood center forms.

Q 3: Why is the form seven pages long?

A 3: We included space to capture relevant information for the investigation of the reaction and the associated blood components. In order to make this a fillable form, there is more white space than you may have had on your previous blood center specific forms, so it may appear much longer.

Hospitals should only complete the sections that are appropriate for the type of reaction reported. Every section does not need to be completed.

Q 4: Can I attach our internal report?

A 4: Yes. Please attach additional notes, clinical summaries and/or internal reports that are pertinent to the investigation, including the transfusion history, imaging reports (e.g. chest x-rays), and lab results (e.g. BNP and CBCs).

Q5: When should I send this form to my providers?

A 5: The form should be submitted as soon as possible so that the blood collector can evaluate how to handle donors or any co-components that may cause patient harm. Your blood providers will provide additional instructions on the front of the form.

Q 6: What happens if more information becomes available after form is already sent? Should we send updated form? And to all our blood suppliers?

A 6: When the hospital has more definitive information that they should send the additional information on a revised version of the original form, using the same MR or tracking number.

Q 7: How can I send comments to AABB about this form?

A 7: Please send your feedback on the form to AABB at hemovigilance@aabb.org. AABB will review feedback in the spring of 2018, after several blood centers and hospitals have used the form.