AABB Hospital Accreditation

Your Distinction of Excellence.

Advancing Transfusion and Cellular Therapies Worldwide
every seven seconds.
Your Commitment to Quality & Safety: A Valuable Distinction

Transfusion medicine is one of the most common services that patients receive while under hospital care. To provide these therapies consistently and safely requires highly disciplined oversight to identify and mitigate risks. It requires examining and connecting infrastructure, processes, and people in a perpetually changing and demanding environment. A quality management approach serves this environment well.

Clinicians and administrators of hospitals and healthcare organizations understand that safety and quality decisions cannot be compromised when providing life-saving care and complex clinical interventions. Patient outcomes and effective risk management results from achieving alignment across systems, procedures, and employees caring for patients—an important goal of the accreditation process that makes accreditation a responsible leadership choice.

Quality management is a serious approach to effectively and safely performing transfusion processes and delivering patient-centered care. When deciding to credential your hospital’s transfusion medicine services, the right partner will enhance your hospital’s operations by offering a thoughtful approach to prioritizing quality and safety, innovative healthcare practices, and enhanced patient care.

In the United States, a patient receives a transfusion service every seven seconds. During hospitalization, one in every 12 patients receives a transfusion service. Earning AABB Accreditation is a significant demonstration of your hospital’s commitment to quality and safety in its transfusion medicine practice.
AABB Accreditation Differentiates Your Commitment

Whether managing one hospital or an entire hospital system, healthcare leaders rely on AABB Accreditation as a critical resource to create and enhance quality management within transfusion medicine services.

The work required to achieve accreditation builds a culture of learning, a culture of excellence. AABB sets the standards and administers the assessment and accreditation process, which is both educative and participatory. It calls for self-evaluation and innovation involving wide participation—from doctors and laboratory managers to department leaders, technologists, and administrators—allowing hospitals to effectively identify and quickly implement needed changes in their transfusion medicine operations.

Now is the time to invest in the continuous improvement of your hospital’s best practices, and AABB is the perfect partner. By aligning teams around essential, expert standards of care, variability in patient outcomes and risks can be reduced. The quality management skills and knowledge developed with AABB prepare your hospital for more efficient operations and better patient experiences. AABB’s services that complement accreditation, such as continuing education, add value across your organization.

AABB Accreditation is a mark of weighty distinction, demonstrating commitment to a culture of excellence by complying with established standards and continuously optimizing organizational outcomes, innovative performance, and patient safety and satisfaction.
“Being accredited by AABB creates habits and behaviors that reinforce a culture of learning...I must say by far this is the most organized, in-depth and educational assessment I have ever experienced.”

– John Muir
Medical Center
We were able to strengthen our communication with stakeholders and put a monitoring system in place that will have long term impacts to our system improvement.”
– Winn Army Community

AABB Distinction: Accountability and Risk Management

Each day, thousands of medical processes are performed, services are administered, and clinical decisions made. With pervasive change at the operational and regulatory levels, traditional methods and processes for maintaining quality and safety can become disconnected. Instituting protocols that enhance accountability and risk management help offset the inherent risks in providing healthcare services.

While other accrediting organizations simply check that policies exist, AABB’s overall systems assessment is more than just a procedural checklist. It is an in-depth analysis of the way your transfusion services perform against standards that evolve within the field and advance with technology gains as well as a thoughtful review of your own policies, procedures, and functions. It’s what differentiates AABB from other accrediting organizations.

Achieving and maintaining accreditation yields these tangible benefits to hospitals:

Increase Accountability
An accredited transfusion medicine practice has the tools to monitor performance, capture deviations, and analyze suboptimal outcomes. Encouraging quality systems to proactively track deviations from expected outcomes and identify risks in operating procedures helps reduce errors.

Mitigate Costly Outcomes
The assessment and accreditation process helps educate teams and identify strengths as well as improve technical competencies and refine existing work flows in an effort to prevent errors. The time and resources necessary to earn accreditation are minimal in comparison to the advantages gained in terms of reducing risk exposure. Consistent examination may reduce costs and support fiscal responsibility as well as safety.
AABB Accreditation demonstrates to regulatory agencies, insurance companies, and patients that quality and safety will remain at the forefront of your hospital’s clinical outcomes and patient care.

**Continuous Review for Continuous Improvement**

AABB transfusion medicine standards undergo a cycle of review and revision every two years, or earlier if patient or donor safety issues arise. The revision process includes a public comment period that seeks input by experts from around the world. This benefits organizations by measuring your hospital practices and performance against current, evidence-based standards. Additionally, AABB provides anticipatory guidance for transfusion medicine services through constant monitoring of changes in technology and regulations.

“*The Office of Inspector General's ‘Adverse Events in Hospitals: National Incidence among Medicare Beneficiaries,’* which noted that 13.5 percent of hospitalized Medicare beneficiaries experienced an adverse event during their hospital admission; an additional 13.5 percent of the Medicare beneficiaries experienced events that resulted in temporary harm during their hospital stay; 44 percent of the events were deemed preventable; and the cost to Medicare for these events was estimated to be $324 million in October of 2008 alone.”

Within your hospital’s transfusion medicine services, AABB Accreditation can help mitigate risks by facilitating the identification and correction for areas of concern.


Downloadable PDF available at: http://www.ashrm.org/pubs/white_papers.dhtml
AABB Distinction: Innovative, Operational Excellence

When hospitals choose AABB as their accreditation partner, they position themselves to intentionally focus on innovation. AABB sets its standards based on a quality management system that affords each hospital the opportunity for compliance within its own unique context, resources, and culture. A natural by-product of compliance is the continuous pursuit of operational excellence, which often results in ways to support adoption of innovative methods, technology, and clinical activity that reduce risks.

In addition, AABB offers its accredited members continuing education, regulatory updates, and access to cooperative experts in transfusion medicine services—creating a valuable community beyond accreditation.

AABB Accreditation requires self-assessment, followed by a structured assessment performed by highly trained assessors. AABB standards incorporate both technical and quality systems standards to ensure that all facets are reviewed—from specification of equipment, materials management, and organizational structure to documents, resource management, and program assessment. Our process includes continuous review of quality and safety procedures that are evaluated by skilled assessors within the context of each hospital.

Our highly trained assessors expect and look out for tailored approaches to meet the intent of AABB standards, which are purposely designed to identify and regulate risks. As a result, your hospital’s internal practices continually evolve and improve. This, in turn, positively influences quality in every aspect of transfusion medicine services. Your organization will have the confidence to make improvements that further increase efficiency and improve patient care.

When hospitals invest the time and resources in AABB Accreditation, gains can be made in:

- Identification of opportunities to streamline operations that may reduce operational costs.

Even small efficiency gains or reduced waste can translate into annual savings.
Quality management expertise applied to other departments and programs.

Knowledge management of evidence-based best practices throughout the organization is one of the greatest advantages of accreditation, and third-party objective examination is vital to this process.

Confident implementation of transfusion medicine best practices.

AABB works with hospitals around the country and the world that purposefully identify current, evidence-based practices to address concerns in a variety of transfusion medicine environments. Your hospital benefits from this expertise and saves time by choosing a proven approach.

Change management is challenging if there isn’t a consistent quality management approach in place. Build a culture comfortable with innovation and change by utilizing the tools and knowledge that come from AABB Accreditation.
AABB Distinction: Enhanced Patient Care and Safety Outcomes

Establishing routine ways to address out-of-date processes and implement new technologies are critical to manage patient care, quality, and safety. AABB’s accreditation process educates teams to identify strengths, improve technical competencies, and reduce risks associated with the constant change required in transfusion medicine environments.

Your hospital’s on-going commitment to process examination strengthens daily operations and may result in these positive achievements:

Attract New Patients and Referrals
A reputation that revolves around quality raises visibility and attracts new patients. As patient healthcare experiences improve, increased referrals are realized from satisfied patients who share with others your hospital’s commitment to patient-centered care, quality, and safety—some of patients’ top priorities.

Attract and Retain Quality Staff
Healthcare employees have employment choices and choose carefully when deciding where to work. Many desire to work for an organization that is committed to safety (theirs and their patients). Hiring healthcare employees who seek a quality-driven culture perpetuates positive results—hiring quality staff leads to improved patient outcomes, while effective and efficient operations boost morale, which can translate into better patient care.

Differentiate Your Organization
Today, patients have access to unprecedented amounts of information, which they use to make healthcare choices. A hospital’s reputation reflects its commitment to quality. AABB’s accreditation program contributes to building quality indicators of patient care processes and outcomes.

AABB’s accreditation process helps continually evolve and positively influence quality in every aspect of your hospital’s transfusion medicine services.
According to a VCU Health (VCUH) report published in 2014 by S.M. Armstrong et al, AABB’s Assessor Training Program had positive implications for employee training and job fulfillment, while continuously improving VCUH’s transfusion services—as evidenced by 10 commendable-practice recommendations over the past four assessments.

VCUH sought a cost-effective solution to creating opportunities for professional development for staff, while enhancing its QA program.

By supporting eligible employees to pursue becoming AABB Accreditation Assessors, significant improvements were seen in laboratory quality and employee satisfaction, without affecting the department budget.

Continual learning and expanded regulatory knowledge led to greater job satisfaction, resulting in VCUH to consider it a successful initiative.
AABB Accreditation: Your Distinction of Excellence.

There is power in third-party assessment and earning the significant distinction of accreditation. It represents an independent and impartial evaluation of an organization’s competence in relation to specific activities or services against nationally recognized standards.

Benefits for selecting AABB as your accreditation partner:

**AABB’s Accreditation Program is Accredited**

As an accrediting body, AABB undergoes rigorous accreditation itself by a third party. In short, we hold ourselves accountable to achieving accreditation and remaining a learning organization. This designation gives hospitals and other healthcare organizations confidence in our accreditation services and assessor qualifications and training.

**AABB’s Process Integrates with Existing Organizational Culture**

Your healthcare organization is unique. You’ve invested time and resources establishing protocols and processes to offer services in an efficient and safe manner. The assessment process requires wide participation from your organization’s staff to develop unique solutions in achieving performance that meets AABB standards. Employees are empowered to examine and recommend tailored solutions that fit your culture.

**AABB Assessors are Experts**

Our assessors set AABB’s program apart. AABB assessors are highly qualified professionals in their fields and undergo rigorous and ongoing training with proficiency evaluations to meet our criteria. What makes AABB accreditation unique is that our assessors go beyond a checklist to provide a more comprehensive review. AABB assessors not only verify that policies are in place, but they also take time to review the effectiveness of those policies with staff, so that each hospital benefits from personalized assessment and dialogue.

AABB membership consists of nearly 1,500 institutions and 7,500 individuals, including physicians, nurses, scientists, researchers, administrators, and medical technologists. Members are located in more than 80 countries.

AABB is one of only three accrediting agencies in North America that is accredited by the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua).
Partner with a highly respected accrediting body that values your hospital’s distinctive culture. AABB Accreditation offers a collaborative process, led by expert assessors, to help mitigate risks and improve patient safety and quality of care.

AABB relies on a continuous education philosophy. That is why our assessors are required to complete 65 hours of continuing education credits every two years in defined categories. They must also attend annual training, which keeps them up-to-date on important changes in healthcare regulations.

AABB’s Assessor Training Program is accredited by ISQua, and is one of only 15 accredited training programs in the world.

“This accreditation process has certainly contributed with many more ideas and improvement opportunities beyond our lab and technical details. The suggested improvements in documentation, recording and organizational procedures will certainly impact our organization as a whole going forward.”

– CordVida
Accreditation brings many benefits to your organization. When conducted by an authoritative body, like AABB, against nationally recognized standards, accreditation is the independent and impartial evaluation of competence in relation to specific activities or services. It differentiates your hospital and indicates to patients, employees, and regulators that your organization’s leadership is committed to optimizing its standards of care by managing risk and intentionally focusing on quality.

As a global accrediting organization, AABB’s standards are often incorporated into other organizations’ standards. Our comprehensive process encourages improvement, contained within a quality systems approach, which sets AABB apart. Upon accreditation, your organization becomes an institutional member with valuable benefits: continuing education, regulatory updates, technical specialists available to answer questions, and access to highly regarded experts who serve on AABB standards committees—all of which are designed to help hospitals and leadership continue to maintain optimal performance.

For nearly 70 years, AABB has worked with hospitals to drive continuous improvement in healthcare outcomes through the development and delivery of standards, accreditation, and educational programs, while preparing organizations to effectively and safely deliver the next generation of products, services, and therapies.

Incorporate the valuable distinction that accreditation brings—quality patient-centered care, innovative performance, and improved safety outcomes.

*Begin your AABB Accreditation at AABB.org or contact us at accreditation@aabb.org or (301) 215-6492.*
independent and impartial evaluation of competence