



AIM Severe Maternal Morbidity (SMM) Data Alert for Blood Transfusions

U.S. maternal mortality and maternal morbidity have doubled in the last 15 years and there are now several national quality improvement projects underway to improve maternity care. A key outcome measure used by these initiatives is the Severe Maternal Morbidity Measure developed by the CDC. A central data element in this measure and a key driver of maternal morbidity is blood transfusions. **It is critical for hospitals to continue to code for transfusions in maternity patients.**

While coding blood transfusion procedures has been optional for hospitals, most facilities did code transfusions using ICD-9-CM codes because there were a limited number of codes to select from. The number of ICD-10-PCS codes for blood transfusions has increased exponentially and we have been hearing that hospitals are “electing” not to code blood transfusions due to the complexity of the new codes and the lack of specificity in provider documentation (such as “through which vessel was the transfusion given...”). This will seriously impact the national effort to reduce maternal morbidity and complications from obstetric hemorrhage. We will work with national organizations to address some of the coding rules but in the meantime we have enclosed a simplified set of codes that cover >99% of the transfusions of interest.

Please provide guidance to your providers and coders regarding the importance of thorough documentation of blood transfusions for maternal patients or consider collecting transfusion data by an alternative method (e.g. revenue codes).

Enclosed is a simple guide for coding transfusions that we hope will make coding easier for staff.

The Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) is national collaborative sponsored by HRSA Maternal Child Health Bureau and represents a collaboration of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine (SMFM), American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM), California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC), American Hospital Association (AHA), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American Society of Anesthesiologists, Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology (SOAP), Society of OB/GYN Hospitalists (SOGH), and others.

Guide for Typical ICD-10-PCS Codes used for Obstetric Blood Transfusions

The two most commonly used RBC transfusion codes are highlighted

Transfusion Type	ICD-10 PCS Code
Transfusions into a Peripheral vein (Usual approach)	
Transfusion of Nonautologous Frozen Plasma into Peripheral Vein, Percutaneous Approach	30233K1
Transfusion of Nonautologous Fresh Plasma into Peripheral Vein, Percutaneous Approach	30233L1
Transfusion of Nonautologous Plasma Cryoprecipitate into Peripheral Vein, Percutaneous Approach	30233M1
Transfusion of Nonautologous Red Blood Cells into Peripheral Vein, Percutaneous Approach	30233N1
Transfusion of Nonautologous Frozen Red Cells into Peripheral Vein, Percutaneous Approach	30233P1
Transfusion of Nonautologous Platelets into Peripheral Vein, Percutaneous Approach	30233R1
Transfusion of Nonautologous Fibrinogen into Peripheral Vein, Percutaneous Approach	30233T1
Transfusions into a Central Line (typically only used in massive hemorrhages)	
Transfusion of Nonautologous Frozen Plasma into Central Vein, Percutaneous Approach	30243K1
Transfusion of Nonautologous Fresh Plasma into Central Vein, Percutaneous Approach	30243L1
Transfusion of Nonautologous Plasma Cryoprecipitate into Central Vein, Percutaneous Approach	30243M1
Transfusion of Nonautologous Red Blood Cells into Central Vein, Percutaneous Approach	30243N1
Transfusion of Nonautologous Frozen Red Cells into Central Vein, Percutaneous Approach	30243P1
Transfusion of Nonautologous Platelets into Central Vein, Percutaneous Approach	30243R1
Transfusion of Nonautologous Fibrinogen into Central Vein, Percutaneous Approach	30243T1
Autologous Red Blood Cells (previously self-donated blood)	
Transfusion of Autologous Red Blood Cells into Peripheral Vein, Percutaneous Approach	30233N0
Transfusion of Autologous Red Blood Cells into Central Vein, Percutaneous Approach	30243N0

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