How to Fish:

(Finding information independently)

Key Words: information, data, independent, resources

Expected Blood Management Deliverable

Learn how to independently find the best information about blood management.

Introduction

The current medical literature is filled with data and information about blood management. A myriad of ideas, projects, suggestions, templates, slide sets, and more can be invaluable throughout the implementation and maintenance of a blood management program. The skills learned and developed during early modules will be critical when the blood management initatives become more complex and difficult. It is understood that as your teams' expertise increases, the less you will require direct blood center resources, although there will always be as much help from the Optimum TX team as is needed. It is hoped that continuous process will represent the routine way that transfusion medicine - and all medicine - is practiced in your facility.

In order to improve and expand the existing infrastructure in the hospital, it is necessary to improve your ability to identify the most relevant data and information among the massive amount of available information (websites, literature, books, opinions, etc). Developing this skill in your facility and sharing the information with your team will improve communications, increase the effectiveness of your program, and lead eventually to improved practice and reduced costs.

Objectives of Module

1. **List available tools and resources that can be used to identify the best and most relevant information relating to blood management**
2. **Be able to apply these tools to a blood management project.**

What is Known

Before the internet age, people searched libraries, journals, text books, encyclopedias, microfiche, and other hard copy media for information. All of these sources are still around and valid. Sometimes, they are a better source of "original" information than what is found online.

With the advent of the internet, a massive amount of information is immediately available. Unfortunately, very few people take the time to learn how to find, and then critically evaluate, the relevance and the validity of the information on the internet. Just because it is found on the internet it doesn't mean it is accurate, true, or relevant.

Best Practices, Guidelines, and Recommendations

The internet, journals, and textbooks, as well as original sources and subject matter experts are all valuable sources to obtain accurate valid and relevant information. There are ways to maximize searching each resource.

Use trusted and respected resources to ensure the best possible information.

Become comfortable with international resources. There are a MANY excellent blood management resources and knowledge in the international community

Discussion Points

You may wish to fill out the "topic Worksheet" (attached as addendum 1) for the first several attempts at obtaining good information from the web until you become comfortable (and more expert) at such searches.

(1) For the Internet:
The following is a Four-Step search strategy for surfing the web that is designed to get you to the best information in a timely manner:

Step #1. Get to know where to go and what sites you can count on:

- What websites or locations are known to have reliable expert opinions and subject matter experts (SME)?
    - Examples of general quality websites are provided in the Additional Resources section, below.
- Find subject matter experts, discussion groups, email lists, or blogs of related expertise that you can rely on when a question arises (It never hurts to seek help). Examples of resources are listed below.
    - Always consider contacting a member of the Optimum TX team if you have questions about a topic or if you cannot find the information you are looking for.

- o Blood Systems has a monthly TSO User Group conference call for TSOs in the hospitals we serve. Contact your Implementation Team for details.
  - o Become a member of AABB and join the AABB Community "Transfusion Safety & Patient Blood Management" to find a group of people who can help you.
  - o There is a closed USA TSO email list that is available for TSOs.
  - o Contact Melanie Jorgenson at Puget Sound [MelanieJ@psbc.org], giving her your Last name, First name, Credentials, Title, Institution, Work Address, Work phone number(s), Work e-mail address(es), and Work fax number. Rather than a formal list serve, this is a group of e-mail addresses that each TSO keeps, sending out questions to those e-mail addresses they include.
- You might also consider contacting:
  - o A manufacturer directly if you have questions or need help with equipment or reagents
  - o The FDA or the AABB or other hospitals directly for relevant questions or issues
  - o A consultant or Subject Matter Expert (SME) from another hospital or blood center. Sometimes it makes sense to talk directly with the author of an article.
- Actively look for related professional societies or organizations and look at their resources. Be on the lookout for the growing list of consensus blood management strategies, which are most often freely available on the internet.
  - o Examples include AABB (http://www.aabb.org/), AAOS (http://orthoinfo.aaos.org/topic.cfm?topic=A00121), NKF (http://www.kidney.org/professionals/kdoqi/guidelines_ckd/toc.htm), SABM (http://www.sabm.org/), ARC (http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/WorkingWiththeRedCross/practiceguidelinesforbloodtrans.pdf), California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (http://www.cmqcc.org/ob_hemorrhage)
  - o Also, many organizations have meetings tailored to blood management
    - AABB, AmSECT, SABM annual meetings
    - Other: Mayo (http://www.mayo.edu/cme/anesthesiology-2012r780)
  - o Don't forget to look at international resources: Australian and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion (http://www.anzsbt.org.au/publications/), British Columbia (http://www.traqprogram.ca/), ISBT (http://www.isbtweb.org/), UK Blood and Tissue Services (http://www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk/), UK NICE (http://www.nice.org.uk/CG73)
- Don't hesitate to E-mail the author of a good page or journal article you find.
  - o Most journals include the primary author's email. Googling an author or looking for them on their Institutions website may also reveal their public email address. Most authors love to get emails related to their work.
- Sign up for newsletters that will actively send you summaries of Blood Management or other topics that you need to succeed. Examples include
  - o AABB News: http://www.aabb.org/resources/publications/news/Pages/default.aspx
  - o Most organizations and societies have newsletters that you can sign up for once you join.
    - Transfusion News: http://transfusionnews.com/videos-and-news/
    - Strategic Healthcare Group Blood Bulletin: Available with subscription of their services
    -

Step #2. Analyze your topic to decide where and how to begin

Does your topic...
- Make you feel confused? Don't really know much about the topic yet? Need guidance?
  - Ask subject matter experts for help (such as your Blood Systems' team)
- Need to be discussed in broad terms? OR
  - Does it need a more narrow focus?
- Have synonyms, equivalent terms, or variant spellings or endings?
  - Perhaps you can't find what you want because you are not using more commonly used terms. Be persistent.
  - You may find these in Microsoft word synonym searches.   You might also try an encyclopedia to learn basic concepts and keywords.
- Have distinctive words or phrases associated with the topic?

- Step #3. Maximize your Internet search engines searches:
  - If you are searching a broader concept, type what your term is about. Even if your search words are not the best, you can read some of the search returns to get a better idea of how to search for your topic
  - If your topic has a distinctive word, phrase, abbreviation, or acronym? Then enclose the phrase(s) in " " and type it into Google or an equivalent search engine. Use more than one term or phrase in " " to get fewer results.
  - If you want data, facts, statistics, all of something, one of many like things, schedules, or maps, then look for a specialized database or webpage or other Custom Search Engines on your topic.
    - Examples include: CDC Blood Safety (http://www.cdc.gov/bloodsafety/), WHO Transfusion Safety (http://www.who.int/bloodsafety/en/), Census.Gov (http://www.census.gov/people/)

Step #4. Understand that searching is an iterative process

- Learn as you go & VARY your approach with what you learn
  - Don't assume you know what you want to find. Look at search results and see what you might use in addition to what you've thought of.
- Don't bog down in any strategy that doesn't work.
- Switch from search engines to directories and back.
- Return to previous strategies better informed.

(2) For Books:
- Most of us have been using text books to find information about selected topics for most of our lives, and we know how to use these resources effectively and efficiently. Just a friendly reminder to use the same techniques listed above when searching through the book's Table of Contents and the Subject Index.
- It would be great if you can find a book (or book chapter) that addresses the exact subject of interest.
- Remember to look at the references cited in the book or chapter to obtain source documentation or to ensure the author has quoted and summarized the article correctly.
- Resources available from the AABB

a. Visit www.aabb.org/development/Pages/default.aspx
b. Visit www.aabb.org/resources/Pages/default.aspx
c. Visit www.aabb.org/Pages/Marketplace.aspx
d. Some suggested AABB press textbooks
    i. Decision Making in Transfusion Medicine
    ii. Guidelines for Patient Blood Management and Blood Utilization
    iii. AABB Technical Manual

- There may be textbooks that could be a useful starting point for obtaining additional information about your specific topic. Ask around.

(3) For Articles
- Most of us have used articles from scientific and medical journals and know how to use these resources effectively and efficiently.
- There are several sources on the internet to find scientific medical journals.
    o Unfortunately, most of these sites will provide only the abstract for free and require payment of a fee to read the entire article.
        - Medline   www.medline.com
        - Medscape   www.medscape.com
        - PubMed   www.pubmed.com
        - 4 Med Students   www.4medstudents.com
        - Educus   www.educus.com
- TIP: Find the Bibliography of a particularly good author on their Institution's website. Likely they will have published other similar articles. Also, email them and ask them for their opinion on their top articles on a particular subject.

Steps to take

- Identify your information needs
- For the first several attempts at obtaining information on the web, use the "Topic Worksheet" (Appendix)
- Practice with each new question that arises. Practice with each new project. The more you practice, the easier it will be to anticipate quality search terms and locations.
- Apply what you have learned in previous trials to do better the next time.
- Use backup resources whenever needed.
- Refer to Additional Resources section to review potentially useful sources for additional information.

Additional Resources

If you have questions, or if you need additional guidance, please contact your Blood System's team.

Several Optimum TX modules might interest the reader;

- TSO Reading Material

Make sure to look at Blood Management University and Blood Management Exchange for more information.

The following websites will provide an excellent starting point for informant on Blood Management:

- AABB (http://aabb/org)
- Blood Bank Guy (http://bbguy.org/)
- California Blood Bank Society (http://www.cbbsweb.org/)
- PubMed (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/)
- Strategic Healthcare group (http://www.bloodmanagement.com)
- Society for the Advancement of Blood Management - SABM (http://www.sabm.org/)
- Australian and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion (http://www.anzsbt.org.au/publications/)
- British Columbia (http://www.traqprogram.ca/)
- ISBT (http://www.isbtweb.org/)
- UK Blood and Tissue Services (http://www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk/)

References

http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/FindInfo.html