

West Moreton Health Pre-Operative Anaemia Management Program

OVERVIEW

In Australia the National Blood Authority (NBA) has endorsed a suite of Patient Blood Management (PBM) Guidelines, one of which encourages health services to optimize patient's red cell mass and functionality pre-operatively. The aim of this guideline is to enhance patient outcomes through management of diagnosed anaemia with, or without, iron deficiency, and to reduce reliance on blood transfusions within the surgical setting. When managed appropriately this has also been shown to provide significant reduced length of stay and re-admission rates for these surgical procedures, as well as enhanced patient experience during, and post hospitalization.

Surgical Procedures for Active Pre-Operative Anaemia Management

This Program targets pre-operative patients following surgical procedures at Ipswich Hospital:

- **General Surgery Services - Colectomy and Anterior Resection**
- **Orthopaedic Surgery – Total Hip Replacement and Total Knee Replacement**
- **Gynaecological Surgery – Abdominal Hysterectomy**
- **Urology Surgery – Radical Prostatectomy and Nephrectomy**

This Program is an initiative of the Anaesthetics Department at Ipswich Hospital

Program Pathway

- The prospective surgical patient will be screened for anaemia with a full blood count, Chem20 (+/- Iron studies), eGFR, and CRP by Pathology Queensland at Ipswich Hospital.
- Patients with identified anaemia will be referred to their preferred General Practitioner for treatment and follow up.
- Patients who receive oral iron supplementation will require check of anaemia correction after 6-8 weeks of therapy to determine efficacy, and optimization of their haemoglobin status and red cell mass.
- Those patients requiring urgent remedial action for management of anaemia and/or iron depletion may be referred to transfusion lounge (HiTH, Ipswich) or GP for IV Iron Infusion.
- Patients with significant other comorbidities may be referred to other specialties for specific management of these conditions prior to surgery.
- Repeat blood testing may be required to determine efficacy of any treatments within 2 weeks prior to surgical procedure date to ensure patient is as well as possible for their procedure.
- National Blood Authority patient information fact sheets are provided to enable patients to be actively engaged in their pre-operative optimization and care.