Joint Commission’s National Patient Safety Goal (NPSG.01.03.01, EP 1)

Before initiating a blood or blood component transfusion

The Joint Commission’s National Patient Safety Goal (NPSG.01.03.01, EP 1) has been revised to allow the verification and administration of blood products by one nurse utilizing barcoding technology, as a first option. Barcode technology, used properly, is safe and has related benefits if two individuals are not available. The revision of this NPSG is as follows:

Revised NPSG.01.03.01, EP 1 (addition is bolded): Before initiating a blood or blood component transfusion:

• Match the blood or blood component to the order.
• Match the patient to the blood or blood component.
• Use a two-person verification process or a one-person verification process accompanied by automated identification technology, such as barcoding.

(Joint Commission Online, September 22, 2010)

The Joint Commission states they, “. . . consulted the literature, safety experts and healthcare organizations that use this technology, and agree that the use of automated identification technology contributes to patient safety. The Joint Commission’s Standards and Survey Procedure Committee approved the addition of the language to NPSG.01.03.01, EP 1 that allows use of automated technology as a first option when verifying patient identification for blood transfusions.” (Joint Commission Online, September 22, 2010). This decision will ensure the accuracy and safety of blood product administration, and will improve efficiency associated with this one person automated process.

This revision is a positive step forward in the use and adoption of barcoding technology systems. The message is clear, with the Joint Commission’s approval of using barcoded technology as a first option when administering blood, one of the most high risk processes a clinician can complete. This technology has been proven to be trustworthy and should be leveraged when administering blood and utilized in all aspects of the healthcare delivery system.

There is compelling evidence that trusted technologies, such as the Pyxis® Point of Care Verification suite from CareFusion, leverage the general use of barcoding technology to increase safety throughout the hospital setting. It is the fusion of barcoding accuracy that positively identifies the patient and the mobility to do so wherever the patient is in the hospital setting.

Pyxis Transfusion Verification provides comprehensive transfusion safety at the bedside by helping ensure the correct patient receives the correct blood product. This enterprise-wide point-of-care system fully automates the transfusion documentation process and maximizes communication between clinicians, while enhancing nursing workflow efficiency.