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December 1, 2025

To: Hospital Administrators, Emergency Department Leadership, Trauma Program Directors, and Transfusion Services

From: Sacramento Fire Department – EMS Division

Subject: Launch of Prehospital Blood Transfusion Program – December 8, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

The Sacramento Fire Department (SFD) is pleased to announce the launch of our **prehospital blood transfusion program**, beginning **December 8, 2025**. This initiative is the result of extensive planning and collaboration with regional hospital partners, trauma services, and transfusion medicine specialists, with the shared goal of improving outcomes for patients experiencing life-threatening hemorrhage.

Program Overview

Starting December 8, select SFD Advanced Life Support (ALS) units participating in this program will be equipped to:

- Administer prehospital blood products to patients in **hemorrhagic shock** when they meet established inclusion criteria.
- Initiate transfusion under **standing orders and approved protocols** developed in conjunction with our county EMS Medical Director and regional experts.
- Provide rapid resuscitation in the field and during transport to reduce time to definitive care.

Initially, this program will focus on:

- **Trauma patients** with suspected ongoing hemorrhage and signs of shock.
- Select **non-traumatic hemorrhage** cases (e.g., GI bleeding, obstetric hemorrhage) when approved by online medical control.

Coordination With Hospitals

To support continuity of care and safety, we will:

- Provide **clear documentation** of prehospital transfusions, including product type, volume infused, lot numbers, and timing.
- Transfer all **unused blood products** and related documentation directly to the receiving facility according to agreed-upon chain-of-custody procedures.
- Communicate with receiving ED/trauma teams via radio and/or electronic pre-arrival notification when a patient is receiving prehospital blood.

We recognize that each hospital may have its own workflows and requirements related to transfusion documentation, reconciliation of blood products, and quality review. We are committed to aligning our processes with yours to the greatest extent possible.

Clinical Governance and Quality Assurance

The program will be overseen by the SFD Medical Director and EMS leadership, with:

- Defined **clinical inclusion and exclusion criteria** for transfusion.
- Ongoing **data collection and performance review**, including morbidity and mortality and process metrics (e.g., time to first transfusion, adverse events).
- Collaborative **case reviews** with receiving hospitals and trauma programs as appropriate.

Next Steps and Points of Contact

In the weeks following the December 8 launch, our team will be available to our hospital partners to:

- Review **operational workflows**, including handoff procedures, documentation, and product reconciliation.
- Address any **questions or concerns** related to transfusion reactions, documentation requirements, or regulatory considerations.
- Identify opportunities for **shared education**, such as joint case reviews, simulations, or in-service presentations.

If you would like to schedule a meeting specific to your facility or require more detailed information about protocols, training, or logistics, please contact:


- **Kevin Mackey MD, EMS Medical Director** – 916-539-5770 | kmackey@sfd.cityofsacramento.org

We deeply value our partnership with each of your institutions and see this program as a natural extension of our shared mission: delivering timely, high-quality, patient-centered care to the residents and visitors of Sacramento. We look forward to working closely with you as we implement this important advancement in prehospital care.

Sincerely,



Kevin E. Mackey MD, FAEMS
EMS Medical Director
Sacramento Fire Department



Adam McKahan
Assistant Chief, EMS Division
Sacramento Fire Department