

DOUBLE INDEPENDENT CHECKING: TRANSFUSION

INFORMATION FOR CLINICIANS & HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

NSW Policy Directive 2018_042 Blood Management introduced the phrase '**Double Independent Checking**', to minimise the risk of error at the final administration check before transfusion of blood and blood products.

Double Independent Checking refers to a process whereby the administering and checking clinicians must each check the required information and, independently confirm the details are correct.

What's the difference?

Commonly the two staff share the checking process, where one staff member reads product/documentation/identification details out loud for the second person to compare and confirm. In this case each person has not independently fulfilled the requirements for patient identification.

These requirements are not new and are consistent with other NSW Health Policies. NSWPD 2018_042 Blood Management has highlighted where there may be discrepancies between policy and practice. The following resources and references to established NSW Health policies, clarify requirements for implementation of Double Independent Checking in NSW facilities.

BloodSafe eLearning resources

- BloodSafe eLearning video explaining Double Independent Checking
<https://bloodsafelearning.org.au/resource-centre/videos/>
- Clinical Transfusion Practice Course: includes a video demonstrating 2 staff members correctly undertaking the checks.

PD2013_043 Medication Handling in NSW Public Health Facilities

https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/PD2013_043.pdf

- The **definition for medication** in this policy includes the following: 'therapeutic substance & fluid for intravenous use', thereby applicable to blood and blood products.
- **Section 7.7 Second Person Checks Prior to Administration** outlines the responsibilities of that second person.

PD2017_032 Clinical Procedure Safety

https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/PD2017_032.pdf

- Section 2.1.1 outlines the requirements for patient identification
- Each person must undertake each element of this patient identification process

About the Blood Watch Program

The CEC's Blood Watch program aims to provide leadership and support in quality care, clinical safety and supply security of blood and blood products to achieve world class transfusion medicine practice in NSW. For further information, please visit: <http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au>

Double Independent Checking: Transfusion - Information for Clinicians and Health Professionals
Released February 2019, © Clinical Excellence Commission. SHPN. CEC190056