

HOW TO BUILD A PREHOSPITAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION PROGRAM

PREHOSPITAL BLOOD COULD SAVE **37%** OF TRAUMA PATIENTS WITH SEVERE BLEEDING.¹

SIX ELEMENTS OF A PREHOSPITAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION PROGRAM

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE

Community, regional and hospital blood banks, hospital administrators, EMS, state/local EMS medical director, trauma/ER personnel and state agencies with jurisdictional authority provide initial and ongoing input and feedback. They can assist in overcoming regulatory, administrative and logistical barriers.

EQUIPMENT

Vehicles carrying blood products must have blood-administration equipment and software for monitoring temperature-controlled coolers to maintain appropriate storage conditions.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Sharing scientific literature regarding the value of prehospital blood transfusion in motor-vehicle crash patients and other trauma patients is critical, as is securing support for initial and ongoing competency-based training and program management.

BLOOD-SHARING NETWORK

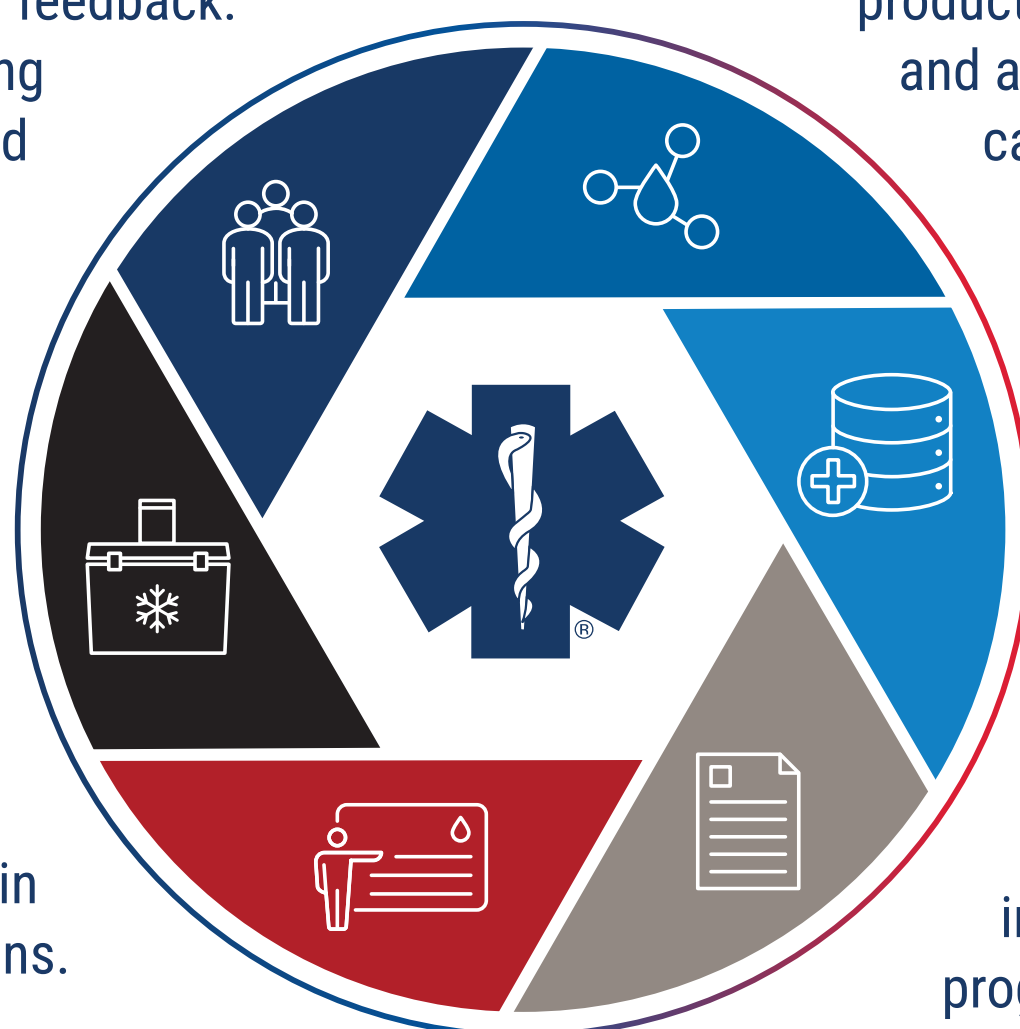
Across the country, blood is often in short supply, and one crash patient can require many units of blood.² Working with hospitals and blood suppliers ensures adequate blood products are available to EMS, and agency-based blood drives can also increase supply.

DATA/CQI

Initial and ongoing data analysis on blood usage patterns, patient safety and outcomes, system efficiency, local/state gaps in blood availability, inventory levels, and transportation infrastructure tracks a program's effectiveness.

GUIDELINES

These include documented, locally compliant processes and criteria for clinician (paramedic) transfusion of prehospital blood; storage, packaging, transport, and resupply of blood; disposition of unused blood; billing and reimbursement; and patient handover from EMS to hospital staff.



HOW TO GET STARTED TODAY



Check with your regulatory agency about **EMS licensure requirements and scope of practice** to determine any changes that may be needed to allow paramedics and other EMS personnel to administer blood in the field.



Create a **list of stakeholders** who should be on your committee and reach out to each member to start a conversation.



Learn from EMS organizations with a prehospital blood transfusion program to find out how they did it.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PREHOSPITAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION GO TO [EMS.GOV](https://www.ems.gov).



References

1. [Prehospital Hemorrhage Control and Treatment by Clinicians: A Joint Position Statement](#)
2. [Importance of Blood Supply](#)