

The application to operate an Ambulance Transfusion Service (ATS) requires approval by two Department of Health programs. The Blood and Tissue Resources Program grants approval based on review of the application, the agreement between the blood bank and the proposed ATS, and the standard operating procedures (SOPs). Ambulance transfusion services must receive approval from the Blood and Tissue Resources Program and the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services.

Ambulance transfusion services shall have a written agreement with at least one facility that holds a New York State permit in Blood Services – Transfusion. The agreement must specify the division of responsibilities for ensuring compliance with the provisions of 10 NYCRR Subpart 58-2 and Article 31 of the Public Health Law. The agreement must be signed by the transfusion service director of the issuing blood bank and the medical director of the ambulance transfusion service, and be approved by the Department. A model agreement is available, however this is only an example, and need not be followed if the agreement contains the key elements.

Standard operating procedures regarding transfusion and handling of blood by the ambulance transfusion service must be submitted to the Department for approval. The SOPs must address the following requirements:

1. Adequate provision must be made for transportation and storage of blood. Transport generally will be in a cooler with ice for red blood cells. All shipments must be monitored with a blood temperature indicator. *Is this necessary if the container has been validated?* Blood must remain in the cooler until transfusion, within the time limit specified in the procedures. Every effort should be made to keep storage time outside the blood bank to a minimum.
  2. Emergency procedures for adverse reactions must be detailed. Medical control should be contacted whenever a patient exhibits signs and/or symptoms of an adverse reaction. The SOPs must detail handling of adverse reactions, including specimens to be collected and information to be relayed to the receiving blood bank. Adequate equipment and supplies for initiation of emergency treatment must be available. Arrangements must be in place for 24-hour reporting of adverse reactions by recipients or emergency medical services personnel and other concerns that may arise after the transfusion.
  3. Qualified paramedics and critical care technicians must administer and monitor all transfusions. These persons must be adequately trained in recognition and management of adverse reactions and have appropriate experience in administering transfusions. In addition to the individual administering the transfusion, at least one other competent adult shall be present at all times during a transfusion. *(can this be the driver?)* This person must be capable of conversing by telephone with the physician and accurately transmitting information and instructions.
  4. There must be instructions for administration of all blood products to be given.
  5. The SOPs should follow guidelines issued by the NYS Council on Human Blood and Transfusion Services entitled "Elective Out-of-Hospital Transfusion: Recommended Criteria and Guidelines for Transfusion of Blood Components".
  6. The transfusion service director of the issuing facility must approve the procedures. The issuing facility must have a transfusion committee that meets the requirements of Subpart 58-2. The committee must review all transfusions administered by the ambulance transfusion service. The ambulance transfusion service may, additionally, have its own quality assurance committee review transfusions.
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Inspection of ambulance transfusion services sites and necessary equipment by a State surveyor may be conducted prior to Departmental approval. Departmental approval is indefinite subject to regulatory compliance. Any modifications to the agreement or procedures or changes in directorship must be forwarded for evaluation prior to implementation.

Submit the completed application form, the signed agreement, standard operating procedures, and other relevant documents to:

Bureau of Emergency Medical Services  
875 Central Avenue  
Albany, NY 12206  
518-402-0996