Bloody Truth for February

Question: Can we transfuse Plasma-Lyte A along with a blood product?  
Answer: Yes, the product is PLASMA-LYTE A (BAXTER) Injection pH 7.4 (Multiple Electrolytes Injection, Type 1, USP).  It is compatible with blood and blood components and can be administered prior to or following the infusion through the same tubing set, and it can also be infused through the same line during blood transfusion.

Question: *Can we transfuse red blood cells, platelets, and plasma by using the IV pumps?*

Answer: Yes, VUMC pumps have been approved to infuse red blood cells, platelets, and plasma products. Historically, platelets were not transfused by the IV pumps because they could damage the cells. However, current VUMC pumps are gentler and FDA approved to deliver these products. Remember to use blood tubing with a 170- to 220-micron filter for blood products that can also be used in the IV pumps. Never transfuse products without the correct blood product tubing.

Question: *When will the revised Transfusion Administration Record (TAR) be delivered with the product?*

Answer: The blood bank will implement a new TAR this spring. This new TAR will be more comprehensive than the current TAR and will offer the most current information for blood transfusion. Please remember that the electronic medical record (EMR) is the primary source for blood documentation. If the EMR is not available, the form must be completed and scanned into the EMR. Be sure to check out the new “handover” section of the form found on the back page.