NL Provincial Blood Coordinating Program
Red Blood Cell Transfusion – Decision Pathway (Adults)
Medical / Nursing

- Request for RBC sent to TML

**YES**
- Bleeding patient, intraoperative transfusion, or receiving treatment as an outpatient
  - Transfuse as indicated

**NO**
- Confirm baseline hemoglobin and reason for transfusion - signs of decreased oxygen carrying capacity, chest pain, orthostatic hypotension, tachycardia
  - Transfuse single unit RBC
  - Confirm post transfusion hemoglobin
  - Reassess for signs of decreased oxygen carrying capacity, chest pain, or tachycardia unresponsive to fluid resuscitation
    - Incremental increase in hemoglobin
      - No clinical indication for transfusion
        - Transfusion not indicated
      - Clinical indication for transfusion
        - Transfuse additional unit RBC
    - Incremental increase in hemoglobin AND clinical indication for transfusion
    - Incremental increase in hemoglobin
      - Clinical indication for transfusion
        - Investigate cause of anemia
        - Treat as indicated

*Each unit of RBC increases the Hemoglobin approximately 10 g/L.
Check Hemoglobin after every unit to ensure incremental increase with each red cell unit transfused.*