Dear Colleagues:

On Wednesday January 31st, UCM will Go-live with the new staff runner system to transport Massive Transfusion Protocol (MTP) blood product packs. The care team runner process will only apply to the MTP; routine, stat and emergency release transfusion orders will still be sent through the pneumatic tube system. The Blood Bank will issue MTP packs in large coolers that will maintain proper storage temperatures for up to four hours. Transporting MTP packs in coolers with care team runners enables care teams to safely store blood products at the patient’s bedside, even if the patient is transferred to or from a unit or a procedural area. This change will have a tremendous impact on the quality of care we provide for critical, hemorrhaging patients.

After Go-live, the clinical team caring for the patient will send a runner to the Blood Bank to retrieve the MTP cooler. There are no restrictions to who may transport MTP packs; the runner does not have to be from the patient’s direct care team. The cooler is on wheels, has a long handle, and has a separate compartment for storing room temperature platelets and cryoprecipitate. A member of the care team must also return the cooler to the Blood Bank after MTP deactivation.

All clinical care areas have identified a preferred unit staff member as the primary and secondary runner for MTP packs. However, all staff should be prepared to serve as the runner if required to ensure care for our most critical patients. Contact the Patient Care Manager to determine the specific workflow for sending a MTP runner from your unit.

Attached is a tip sheet for the transporting MTP packs, which includes a map to the Blood Bank on the 2nd floor of CCD. The map to Blood Bank can also be found in the Emergency Transfusion Guide, which is stocked on all crash carts. Additionally, all procedural areas and critical care units will have access to a new MTP card. This card will allow the designated MTP runner to perform an emergency elevator override to expedite MTP pack transport throughout the hospital campus. This card may only be used for MTP activations and utilization will be closely monitored. Contact the Patient Care Manager to determine where the MTP card is stored for your unit. Lastly, new Blood Bank way-finding signs were installed on the second floor of CCD and existing way-finding signs throughout the hospital were updated to assist runners.

Please contact Ariana King at ariana.king@uchospitals.edu if you have questions or would like to schedule an in-service for your department.
Thank you,

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