

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

There is a new⁹ free [QS138 Quality insights tool](#) that can be used to monitor and benchmark the NICE quality standards 138 including Tranexamic acid use and Iron treatment for iron deficiency in surgical patients.

The clinical lead for perioperative anaemia should support implementation of this guideline, through local quality improvement programmes. This will require:

- patient and public involvement in co-design/co-production
- identification of local key performance indicators based on the metrics below
- collaboration with local data analysts/informatics to support robust data collection (ideally through linkage with existing datasets, for example Getting it Right First Time, Perioperative Quality Improvement Programme, Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership)
- local measurement using a time series approach (eg statistical process control charts)
- local collaborative, interdisciplinary audit/morbidity/mortality meetings to review the data and inform quality improvement programmes

To support measurement for improvement the following metrics may be used:

Metrics to support the development of the clinical pathway

- Number/proportion of patients presenting for major surgery identified to have anaemia
- Number/proportion of patients with anaemia who required an intervention (eg iron infusion, blood transfusion) preoperatively
- Number/proportion of patients with anaemia who required an intervention (eg blood transfusion) intraoperatively
- Number/proportion of patients with anaemia who have required an intervention (eg iron infusion, blood transfusion) postoperatively
- Number/proportion of patients with anaemia who have had surgery postponed/cancelled
- Number/proportion of patients with anaemia who are referred postoperatively for further follow-up or management of anaemia at discharge
- Number/proportion of patients living with anaemia who have documentation of treatment escalation plans and advance care plans (eg Jehovah's Witness)

Metrics to measure process

- Availability of hospital guideline for detection and management of anaemia applicable to the perioperative setting
- Length of hospital stay of patients undergoing major surgery who have anaemia
- Length of hospital stay of patients undergoing major surgery who have needed an intervention (eg blood transfusion) to treat their anaemia
- 30-day readmission in patients with anaemia undergoing surgery

Metrics to measure patient reported outcomes

- Decisional regret
- Satisfaction with shared decision making (eg using SDMQ9)
- Quality of life measures such as EQ-5D-5L

Metrics to support workforce development

- Number/proportion of staff working in perioperative care settings who have completed training up to (and including) eLFH level 3 training or equivalent
- Availability of a team to support/deliver perioperative management of anaemia.