Patient Blood Management

What’s the problem?

Undiagnosed anemia before surgery is common and, along with the type and complexity of surgery, one of the major predictors for perioperative blood transfusions.

Pre-operative Blood Management Strategies

If your patient is anemic, the following may be used to raise their blood count:

• Iron therapy - Oral and Intravenous
• Judicious use of the appropriate Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agent (ESA)
• Vitamin B6, B12, Folic Acid
• Nutritional support

The Facts

• Depending on the need for surgery, the patient’s overall health, and definition of anemia, 5% to 75% of patients may present with preoperative anemia.
• A national audit demonstrated that 35% of patients scheduled for joint replacement surgery had a hemoglobin level less than 13 g/dL on preadmission testing.
• Anemia before an elective surgical procedure can expose the surgical patient to blood transfusion (intraoperative and/or post-operative). In addition, anemia has been associated with increased postoperative complications, such as increased length of stay, longer ventilation times, and increased risk for infection.