



PREHOSPITAL
BLOOD TRANSFUSION
INITIATIVE COALITION

Best Practices in EMS Blood Resuscitation

THOR 2024 RDCR Symposium

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Chair, Prehospital Blood Transfusion Initiative Coalition

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- EMS 101
- Challenges to prehospital blood transfusion programs
- Scope of Practice considerations
- EMS blood transfusion programs elements
- Blood Supply
- Prehospital transfusion programs uses
- Prehospital Blood Transfusion Initiative Coalition



- EMS is NOT considered an essential service in most states
- EMS is regulated at the state level
 - No mandated federal oversight or control
- Levels of EMS clinicians
 - Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
 - Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
 - Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)
 - Paramedic (PM)
- Levels of agencies – FR / BLS / ALS / critical care

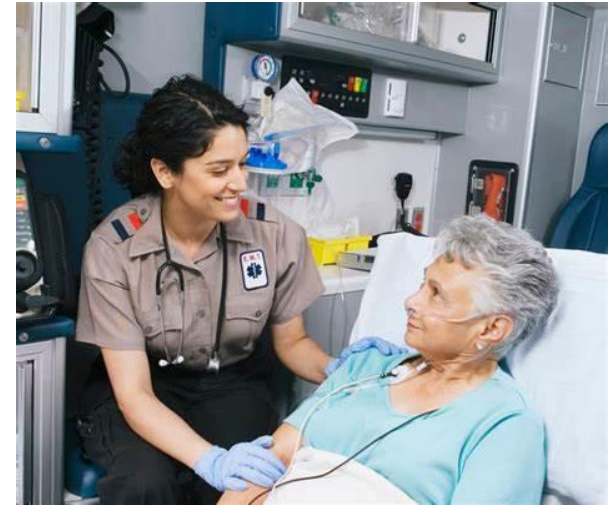


- Models of EMS Delivery

- Public safety
 - Fire based
 - Third service
 - Law enforcement
- Hospital based
- Private, not for profit
- Private, for profit
- Volunteer
- Other



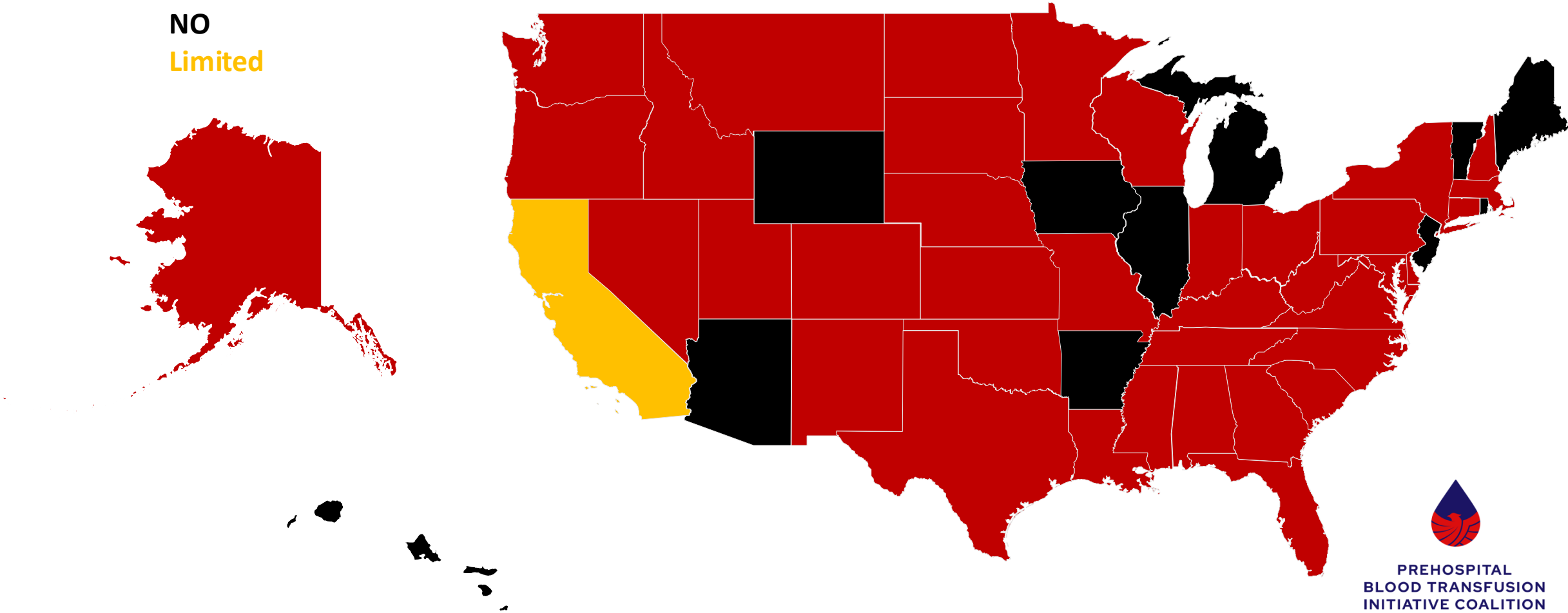
- **Scope of Practice**
 - National Scope of Practice Model - guidelines
 - States determine actual SoP
 - 40 states allow for initiation of transfusion
- **Reimbursement**
 - EMS reimbursement based on transportation to ED
 - 50-year-old CMS Authorizations
 - Mileage and level of care based
 - No consistent reimbursement for field transfusions
 - Funded through grants / donations / operational budget
 - CMS proposed regulatory modification for ground ambulances
 - LTO+WB / no additional reimbursement
- **Availability of blood / components**
 - Initial focus on LTO+WB / acknowledge utility of other components
 - Increase donation pool



YES

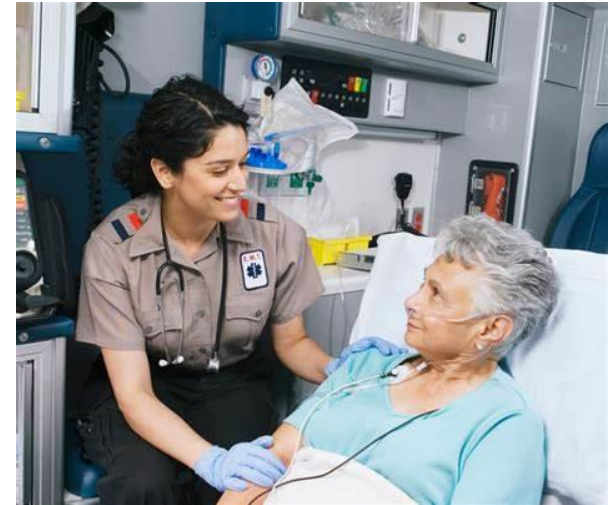
NO

Limited

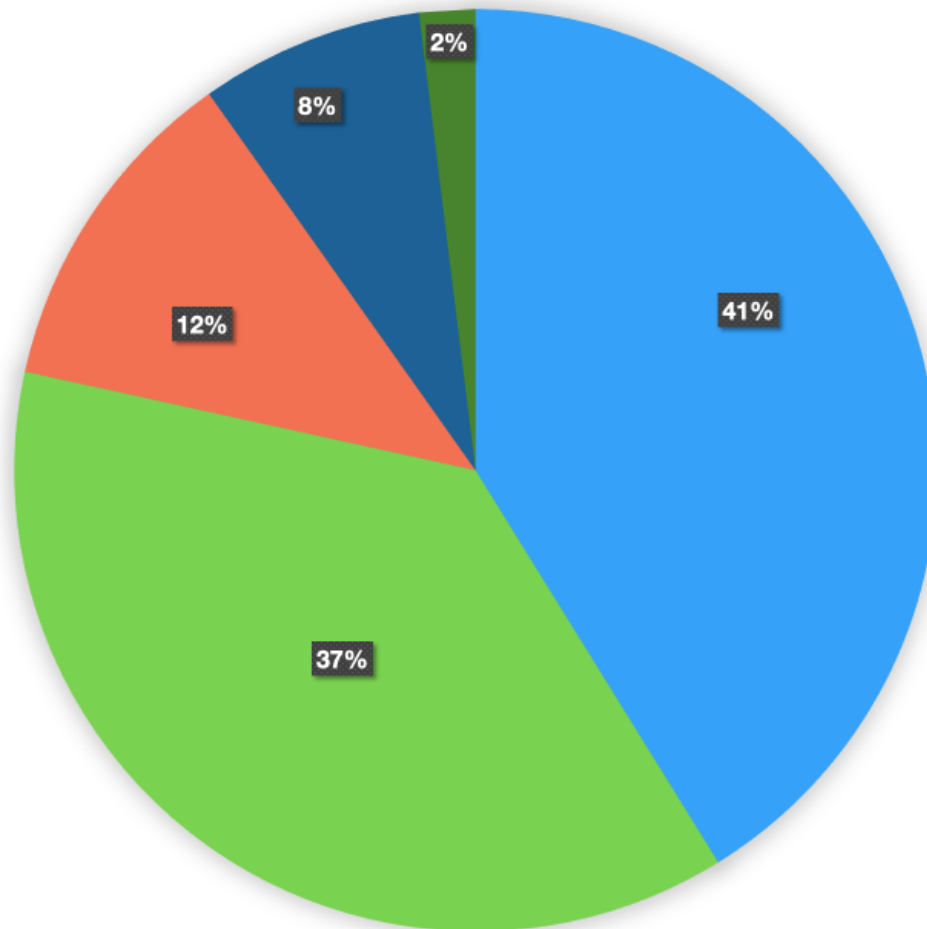


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How Does Your Agency Pay For Blood/Blood Products?



■ We are part of a Rotation Program and the agency only pays for blood products used.

■ We pay for all blood products (transfused and discarded).

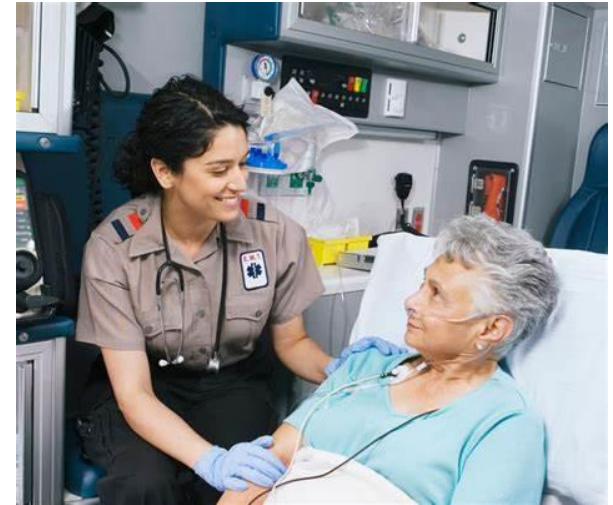
■ Other

■ We are a hospital-based EMS system; transfusions are charged under the patient's hospital bill.

■ We do not pay for any blood products (transfused or discarded).



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- Multidisciplinary approach
 - EMS / Trauma / Medical / Blood community
- Infrastructure
 - Protocols / clinical guidelines Education
 - Blood supply Blood Storage and access
 - Blood Administration Documentation
- Blood Supply
 - Recognize the importance of WB and/or components
 - Local or regional blood centers or blood banks
 - Purchase vs rotation



- Hemorrhagic shock:
 - Agnostic of etiology
 - Traumatic injuries
 - OB/GYN – peripartum
 - Medical – GI bleed / dialysis
 - Agnostic to patient age
 - Agnostic to blood product



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"This could save more
American lives than any other
initiative in our lifetime."

John Holcomb, MD, FACS

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