

## Thank you for your participation in the Montana Interfacility Blood Network

The state of Montana encompasses over 147,000 square miles which truly defines rural health care as it is known in the United States today. This vast area is punctuated by pockets of health care availability which may or may not have blood available for transfusion. Out of necessity and for the optimal care of patients, the Montana State Trauma Care Committee (STCC) has developed the Montana Interfacility Blood Network (MT IBN).

The MT IBN is an unparalleled concept whereby an intermediary facility will “hand-off” lifesaving blood to transporting personnel on their way to definitive care. As an example, a patient presents to a facility that has no blood products available or a limited supply. The patient requires blood, and flight services are grounded due to weather. The patient is being transported to a Regional Center and will pass another hospital with blood products available. With the MT IBN, the ambulance will be able to pick up un-crossmatched, emergent blood products at the intermediate facility and administer them to the patient during the remainder of the transport to the Regional Center.

The MT IBN concept was first discussed in early 2020 based on performance and quality improvement models developed through STCC meetings. Guidelines have been developed to define broad aspects of the MT IBN including the reason to share resources, proper packaging, paperwork necessary for transfer, and how to get resources directly to the patient. These guidelines are attached on the following pages for transport personnel as well as donating/receiving facilities.

The MT IBN will ultimately save lives in a state dominated by vast distances between health care facilities. If there are questions regarding the MT IBN, guidelines, or donation/receiving blood, the following contacts are available:

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