

## Supplementary File 2

The decision to transfuse is made by the intensivist as part of the local critical care protocol.

This protocol consists of policy that include:

- Hb target of 7-8 g/dL
- A clinical judgment that transfusion is appropriate, in addition to the Hb concentration
- Hydration with 150 mL of normal saline prior to transfusion
- The infusion is administered at a rate of 2 ml/min for the first 15 minutes. If vital signs are normal at the 15th minute, transfusion is complete after 40 minutes.
- Administer single unit transfusion, clinical assessment, then use 2nd unit strategy (if 2 units transfusion is decided)
- Red cell suspensions with leukocyte filters are used for all red cell transfusions.
- Red cell packets transfused during the study period will be stored at  $\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$  for an average of up to 40 days.