AABB Standards volume 1

What are AABB standards?

* The AABB standards are a collection of requirements and recommendations that provide a basis for the Accreditation Program of AABB

How do you tell if the standard is a requirement or a recommendation?

* Requirements within the collection of AABB standards use the term “***shall***”, which indicates that the statement is mandatory.
* Rarely, the term “***may***” is used, which indicates that the standard is not required.

Who prepares the AABB standards?

* The most recent set of standards were prepared by the Blood Banks and Transfusion Services Standards Committee (BB/TS SC) and the Standards Program Committee of AABB.
* The most recent (31st edition) became effective 4/1/2018
* You have access to review these standards on the J:/ drive.

What is the goal of the BB/TS Standards?

* To maintain and enhance the quality and safety services provided by blood banks and transfusion services and to provide a basis for the Accreditation Program of AABB
* These standards provide the backbone to many of the procedures that we operate under.

With that in mind, let’s talk about a standard that you may already be familiar with

**1.1 Executive Management:**

The BB/TS ***shall*** have a defined executive management. Executive management ***shall*** have:

* Responsibility and authority for the blood bank’s or transfusion service’s operations.
* The authority to establish or make changes to the blood bank’s or transfusion service’s quality system.
* The responsibility for compliance with these *BB/TS Standards* and applicable laws and regulations
* Participation in management review of quality system.
  + Sometimes it may be unclear as to why a policy or procedure updated, or why we need to review them so frequently. One of the many reasons is that our Blood Bank Medical Director is legally responsible for the adoption, implementation and compliance of our SOPs.
  + The *Transfusion Service Department Organization Chart* policy outlines the structure of the department based off of this standard.
  + The *Staffing Responsibilities* policy is complementary to the organization chart in that is provides a list of responsibilities that the Medical Director and Pathology residents/fellow are officially responsible for.

**1.1.1 Medical Director Qualifications and Responsibilities**

* The BB/TS ***shall*** have a medical director who is a licensed physician and qualified by education, training, and/or experience. The medical director ***shall*** have responsibility and authority for all medical and technical policies, processes, and procedures—including those that pertain to laboratory personnel and test performance—and for the consultative and support services that relate to the care and safety of donors and/or transfusion recipients. The medical director ***may*** delegate these responsibilities to another qualified physician; however, the medical director ***shall*** retain ultimate responsibility for medical director duties.
  + Like the broader standard above, the *Transfusion Service Department Organization Chart* policy and the *Staffing Responsibilities* policies are also directly influenced by this standard. For example, in the *Staffing Responsibilities* policy it points out that it is the responsibility of the Medical Director to ensure we are in compliance with AABB, CAP, Joint Commission, FDA, and the State of Wisconsin.
  + The Blood Bank Medical Director is even responsible for the educational requirements of hospital staff physicians, residents, nurses, and blood bankers.

The goal of the AABB Standards Chat is to increase staff awareness as to their purpose and how they impact the blood banks policies and procedures. If you have a question about AABB standards, please see a member of BB Leadership.