

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE October 29, 2024

Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee

TO Cara Mendelsohn (Chair), Kathy Stewart (Vice Chair), Tennell Atkins, Jesse Moreno  
Gay Donnell Willis

SUBJECT **Dallas Fire-Rescue Blood Transfusion Pilot Program Update**

In February 2024, Dallas Fire-Rescue (DFR) presented a plan to implement a Blood Transfusion Pilot Program aimed at reducing mortality for individuals experiencing life-threatening bleeding. Currently, patients experiencing severe shock due to significant blood loss receive transfusions upon arrival at local trauma centers. This pilot program will evaluate the impact of initiating blood transfusions in the pre-hospital setting immediately following DFR paramedic assessment with the goal of minimizing the adverse effects of severe hemorrhaging.

## **Pilot Program Development**

Since the initial presentation, DFR has collaborated with various stakeholders to develop program parameters for prehospital blood administration:

- DFR's existing agreement with Parkland is being amended to include oversight of the Blood Transfusion Pilot Program.
- Parkland has entered into an agreement with the American Red Cross to supply blood products for the Pilot Program.
- The DFR Office of the Medical Director (OMD) will provide direct clinical oversight of the Pilot Program, including the training of paramedics and EMS supervisors.

## **Training and Equipment**

DFR's EMS Division has collaborated with the OMD to establish treatment guidelines, a training plan, and an equipment list for the Pilot Program. Originally, all necessary equipment was expected to arrive in October; supply chain delays now have the current estimated delivery date no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>. Following equipment arrival, a two-week training session will be conducted for all EMS Field Supervisors, followed by a testing period. Finally, the American Red Cross will conduct a site visit to verify that all storage and administration practices meet their standards prior to program launch.

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## **Pilot Program Launch**

Based on the currently expected completion dates of the contract amendment, blood supply and equipment procurement, and personnel training, the Pilot Program is currently expected to launch in January 2025.

## **Program Evaluation**

Once implemented, the Quality Management Team will review 100% of blood administrations including the outcomes for every patient administered blood. The program will undergo weekly evaluations by DFR for a period of six months. If the program proves to be successful in benefiting our patients, we will seek approval for city-wide implementation.

Should you have questions, or need additional information, please contact Interim Fire Chief Justin Ball at [justin.ball@dallasfire.gov](mailto:justin.ball@dallasfire.gov).

Service First, Now!



**Dominique Artis**  
**Chief of Public Safety (I)**

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