

## Supplementary material to:

### Letter to the editor:

## LONG TIME BLOOD-TRANSFUSION TREND IN A EUROPEAN GENERAL HOSPITAL

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### *Study design*

This retrospective study investigates the numbers of RBC, platelet and plasma (Octaplas, Octapharm AG, Lachen Switzerland) units, which were transfused during a twelve-year period in the General Hospital Steyr (Steyr, Austria). Blood transfusions from January 01, 2006 to December 31, 2017 were analyzed.

In October 2011, an algorithm-guided anemia management program as part of PBM was implemented in the Hospital. The trends of blood transfusions were evaluated before (2006 – 2011) and after (2012 – 2017) the initiation of this PBM program. The average number of hospital beds during this period was 657, with a minimum of 624 in 2017, and a maximum of 707 in 2011.

The study was approved by the Ethical Committee of the Johannes Kepler University Linz (Linz, Austria) (trial registration number: 1129/2018) and performed in accordance with the ethical standards of the Declaration of Helsinki. Informed consent was not required because all collected data remained anonymous.

### *Statistical analysis*

Descriptive statistics were performed to evaluate and tabulate the RBC, platelet and plasma units transfused per year over a time-period of 12 years.