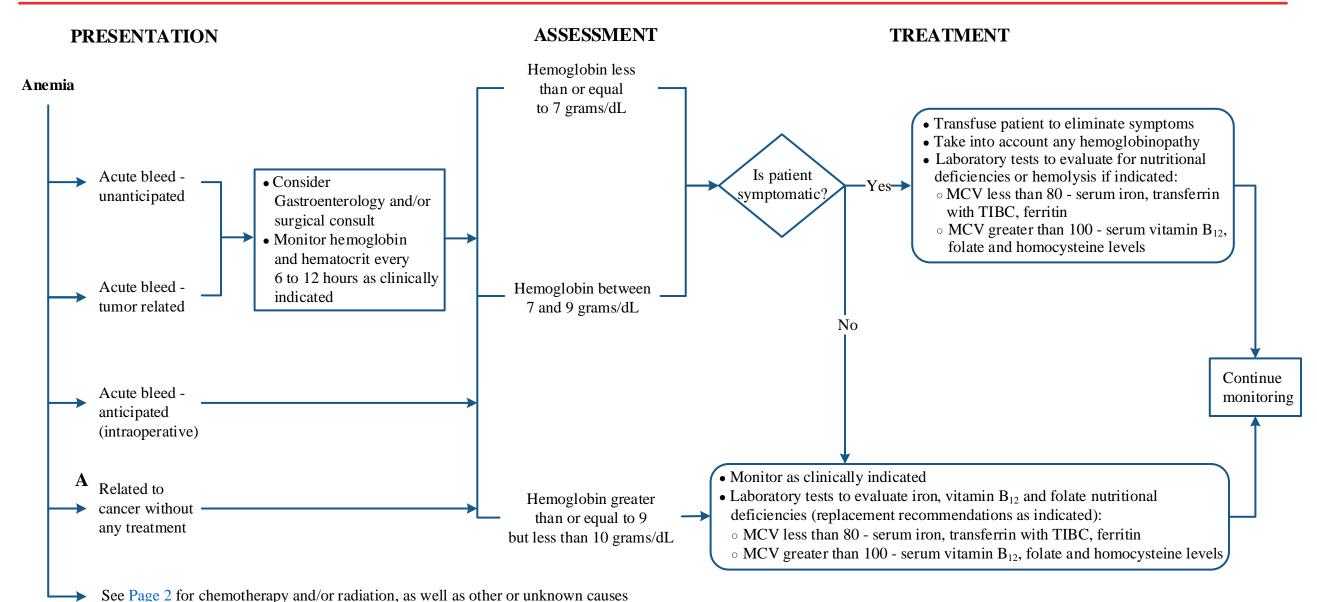
Disclaimer: This algorithm has been developed for MD Anderson using a multidisciplinary approach considering circumstances particular to MD Anderson's specific patient population, services and structure, and clinical information. This is not intended to replace the independent medical or professional judgment of physicians or other health care providers in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine a patient's care. This algorithm should not be used to treat pregnant women.



TIBC = total iron binding capacity

MCV = mean corpuscular volume



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#### **PRESENTATION TREATMENT** • Transfuse patient to eliminate symptoms Hemoglobin less • Take into account any hemoglobinopathy • Laboratory tests to evaluate for nutritional deficiencies or hemolysis if indicated 1 than or equal o MCV less than 80 - serum iron, transferrin with TIBC, ferritin to 7 grams/dL Anemia o MCV greater than 100 - serum vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, folate and homocysteine levels The use of ESA are Yes contraindicated<sup>2</sup> Related to Yes chemotherapy. Continue Hemoglobin Yes and/or Curative Radiation Is patient laboratory between radiation myelosuppressive No treatment mptomatic? monitoring 7 and 9 grams/dL chemotherapy? alone? No Use institutional ESA ordering tools (darbepoetin alfa, epoetin alfa) • Monitor as clincally indicated Hemoglobin greater • Laboratory tests to evaluate for nutritional deficiencies or hemolysis if indicated<sup>1</sup>: than or equal to Continue monitoring 9 and less than o MCV less than 80 - serum iron, transferrin with TIBC, ferritin o MCV greater than 100 - serum vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, folate and homocysteine levels 10 grams/dL Recommended evaluation: Other or • Stool guaiac – obtain Gastroenterology consult if positive Follow care path "A" (on Page 1) unknown depending on hemoglobin level • Nutritional deficiencies – consider Nutrition consult cause • Hemolysis, premalignancy, or other suspected etiologies – obtain Hematology consult

ESA = erythropoietin stimulating agents

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> ESAs may be considered for patients who refuse blood transfusions after discussing the risks

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See FDA approved indications and CMS guidelines

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#### SUGGESTED READINGS

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### **DEVELOPMENT CREDITS**

This practice consensus statement is based on majority opinion of the Anemia experts at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center for the patient population. These experts included:

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