Goals:
To provide safe and holistic care to individuals requiring therapeutic apheresis treatments.
To establish national guidelines for nursing care of apheresis clients.
To promote evidence based practice among Canadian apheresis nurses.
To be aware of Family Systems Nursing Theory and thus practice sensitivity to the uniqueness of each individual while providing apheresis treatments.

Apheresis nurses are trusted to provide invasive blood product exchange treatments to clients afflicted with a variety of disease states, and therefore must have a thorough knowledge of these disease processes as well as knowledge of treatment parameters based on current apheresis and nursing practice evidence.

Patients and families must be empowered to participate in the development of their own apheresis care plan. This is facilitated through interaction and information sharing with a knowledgeable apheresis nurse.

The apheresis nurse is part of a health care team and as such she/he promotes collaborative practice in the best interest of the client and his/her family.

Purpose:
To provide evidence based nursing practice.
To use family systems theory to guide apheresis nursing practice.
To standardize apheresis nursing across Canada and thus promote nursing practice excellence in all Canadian apheresis centers.

1. Assessment:
Comprehensive health assessment is completed on all clients scheduled to undergo therapeutic apheresis.

The RN prior to initiation of the procedure completes an assessment of the proposed treatment plan.

2. Plan:
Treatment selection is reviewed by the apheresis RN and compared to CAG approved treatment Guidelines.

Informed consent has been obtained.

Venous access is evaluated. Any central line placements confirmed as acceptable by qualified MD.

Appropriate blood products (as recommended by CAG) are ordered and confirmed available.
3. Implementation:

Treatment is initiated with the knowledge of approved protocols, treatment parameters, possible adverse events, and approved interventions for any adverse events.

Client is monitored by apheresis RN throughout the treatment.

Documentation of the procedure parameters and end points is completed for each procedure.

4. Evaluation:

The apheresis RN must evaluate treatment outcomes and further treatment scheduling in collaboration with the appropriate health care team members.

The apheresis RN must evaluate the impact of treatment on psychosocial as well as clinical health of the client and family and must be qualified to mobilize additional health care services such as social work, psychiatry, etc. in collaboration with the appropriate health care team members.

The apheresis RN must communicate any required treatment modifications to the health care team prior to the next scheduled apheresis treatment.