Consent for Blood Transfusion

Mrs. Smith had emergent right hip surgery 3 days ago. She is presently in ICU for a postop MI. Hemoglobin has decreased from 10 g/dL to 7.5 g/dL. A blood transfusion is ordered, however, a blood transfusion consent is not in the chart. The OR consent indicates patient is agreeable to transfusion. Can the patient be transfused?

YES – "For surgical patients, blood replacement therapy is included in the operative consent for the operative and post operative period *as long as blood needed is directly related to the surgical procedure*. If not related to the surgical procedure, a separate consent for blood transfusion must be obtained. This specific transfusion consent is valid for 30 days." -- Transfusion Practice Policy on Connect

Physicians should document in the chart rationale for transfusion and if blood loss related to surgical procedure