



Transfusion and Alternative Options/Release from Liability for Jehovah's Witness

The intent of this form is to guide the discussion between physician and patient about the patient's selected options for transfusion and alternatives.

I, _____, direct that no blood transfusions be given to me under any circumstances, even if physicians deem such necessary to preserve my life or health.

I understand that the attending physician(s) may feel that blood transfusions for me is in my best interest. I release these physicians, the hospital, its personnel and any other person participating in my care from liability for any damages that might result from my refusal of blood transfusion. The possible risks and consequences of such refusal on my part have been fully explained to me and I understand them.

I will in some circumstances accept certain other non-blood medical management (appropriate combinations of drugs, medical/surgical device and technologies). The following are my wishes and directions regarding procedures, treatments and minor blood plasma fractions.

Patient/Substitute Decision Maker to initial after each checked box:

Blood Products	Accept	Refuse
Packed Red Blood Cells		
Frozen Plasma (FP)		
Platelets		
Fractionated Blood Products		
Albumin		
Cryoprecipitate		
Recombinant or Purified Clotting Factors (Factor VII, VIIa, VIII, IX, Von Willebrand Factor)		
Prothrombin Complex Concentrates (PCC)		
Intravenous Immune Globulin		
Drugs		
Erythropoietin (EPO)		

I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the risks and benefits of a blood transfusion and these questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I release persons participating in my care from liability for any damages that may result from my refusal of blood/blood products.

Signature of Patient

Print Name

Date

Signature of Substitute Decision Maker

Print Name

Date



Signature of Attending Physician

Name of Physician

Date

Blood Products Information

Red Blood Cells

Red blood cells contain hemoglobin, which carries oxygen throughout the body. Transfusion of red blood cells may be necessary when their levels are low to prevent damage to vital organs from lack of oxygen.

Platelets

Platelets are required to prevent or stop bleeding. Transfusion of platelets may be necessary in patients with low platelet levels or platelets that are not working properly.

Plasma

Plasma is the liquid portion of blood and contains substances called clotting factors that help blood clot. Transfusion of plasma may be necessary to prevent or stop bleeding in patients with slow blood clotting.

Albumin

Albumin is a blood product manufactured by cold ethanol fractionation from a pool of approximately 10,000 blood donors.

It is a protein from human plasma that may be given to increase the amount of liquid circulating in the blood.

Cryoprecipitate

Cryoprecipitate is extracted from plasma and clotting proteins (factor VIII, factor XIII, fibrinogen, and von Willebrand factor) that are important for blood clotting.

Each unit of cryoprecipitate contains a minimum of 150 mg of fibrinogen.

10 units of cryoprecipitate on average contains 4 grams of fibrinogen.

Intravenous Immune Globulin (IVIG)

IVIG is the fraction extracted from donated plasma that contains the immunoglobulins, with >90% as IgG. Approximately 20% of the IVIG used in Canada is derived from Canadian plasma. The rest is derived from paid U.S. donors.

Immune globulins contain antibodies and are used to prevent or fight infections in the body.

Recombinant or Purified Clotting Factors

These are also known as clotting factor concentrates and are used to prevent or stop bleeding.

Prothrombin Complex Concentrates (PCC)

The factor concentrate is made from pools of 1,000-2,000 plasma donations.

These are clotting factor concentrates that are used to prevent or stop bleeding.

Indications for PCC:

Emergency reversal of warfarin effect.
For patients with INR ≥ 1.5 AND “Life or limb” threatening bleeding.
Emergency surgery within 6 hours.

Erythropoietin (EPO)

Erythropoietin (EPO) is synthesized by DNA technology. This medication stimulates the body to produce more red blood cells so that the need for transfusion is decreased. Some formulations contain albumin. Currently available formulations in Canada do not contain albumin.

This medication should be started 4 weeks prior to surgery and is given once a week by injection under the skin.

REFERENCES

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Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Policy and Procedure Manual (2012). *Transfusion and Alternative Options as Selected by Patient.*