

Patient Label



CO0011

Blood Component Transfusion Consent Patient Information and Instructions

During the course of your treatment, it may be necessary for you to receive a blood transfusion. This sheet provides basic information about this procedure.

Description of Blood Transfusion

During a transfusion, blood is injected into a vein, usually in the arm, using a sterile disposable needle. The transfusion may consist of red blood cells (which carry oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body), platelets (blood cells that aid in clotting), plasma (the liquid part of the blood), or other blood products. The amount and kind of blood product transfused is determined by your doctor and based on your specific needs.

Risks of Blood Transfusion

Blood transfusion is a commonly performed, low risk procedure. However, complications can occur. These include:

Occasional Complications

- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Slight bruising or discomfort at transfusion site
- Fever and/or chills
- Tightness or pain in chest or back
- Mild allergic reaction such as rash or hives
- Severe headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Cramps (abdominal or general muscle pain)

Very Rare Complications

- Destruction of donor red blood cells
- Transmission of diseases such as hepatitis or HIV
- Shock
- Death

Steps taken to reduce the risks of blood transfusion

- All blood components transfused at Hutchinson Regional Medical Center are obtained from volunteer donors. Before donating blood, each donor must give acceptable answers to questions about his health and risk factors for infectious disease.
- Blood from each accepted donation undergoes extensive testing. In addition to blood-typing tests, separate screening tests for evidence of infection with hepatitis, HIV, and syphilis are performed.
- Prior to transfusion, a sample of donor blood is tested (crossmatched) with blood from the patient who will receive it to make sure it is compatible with the patient's blood.

The risk of contracting HIV (a virus that causes AIDS) from a blood transfusion has received a great deal of attention. Actually, because of extensive donor screening and testing, there is very little risk of acquiring HIV from a blood transfusion.

**If you develop any of the above signs or symptoms, contact your caregiver/physician immediately.
Do not take any medication for these symptoms until you have contacted you physician.**

In summary, if a blood transfusion is needed during a surgical procedure or medical treatment, the benefits of receiving blood are expected to outweigh the risks of transfusion.

★ Please read the back of this sheet and then sign★

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Benefits to Blood Transfusion

- Red blood cells increase the ability of your blood to carry oxygen to vital organs
- Fresh Frozen Plasma, Cryoprecipitate, and Platelets help to prevent abnormal bleeding.

Alternatives to transfusion

Your physician can tell you if alternative therapies exist in your case and arrange for their use if indicated.

These alternatives include:

- Erythropoietin, a hormone which may increase your body's own red blood cell production.
- Autologous transfusion (collection and return of the patient's own blood).
- Directed donation (blood donations from family or friends for use by a specific person).

When considering alternatives, keep these facts in mind:

- Erythropoietin may take 7-30 days to increase the body's red blood cell production.
- Autologous and directed donations require advance arrangements. Blood collections must be completed at least 10 working days prior to the expected date of use.
- Autologous transfusion lowers the risk of infectious disease transmission, but still carries risk of bacterial contamination and reactions.
- Directed donations have not been shown to be safer than blood from the community blood supply. Insurance may not pay for directed donor charges.
- Autologous and directed blood is not available for emergency transfusions and may not be available in adequate amounts for large-volume transfusions.

If you have other questions about blood transfusions, please ask your physician or nurse.

I have read the front and back of this information sheet on blood transfusions and understand the risks, benefits and alternatives.

Signature of patient or person authorized to sign for patient

Date/Time