



An average of one patient each day is admitted to McLaren Flint who identifies themselves as someone who refuses blood products. You may think these patients are all members of the Jehovah Witness religion, considering their faith strongly believes it is against Bible teachings to receive blood products. Our numbers have shown that only 8-10% of the patients who refuse blood are Jehovah Witness.

How do we protect these patients' rights to refuse blood products when they're admitted to our hospital? As detailed in **Policy No: RI-120** (effective 2/09):

1. In the admission assessment, indicate **NO** in the '**Will Accept Blood**' field.
2. In **Patient Alerts**, choose **NOBLD** in the drop-down menu



3. Place a **NO BLOOD** armband on the patient (found in the supply cart)
4. Place a **NO BLOOD** sticker on the front of the patient's chart (should be found with the armbands on the supply cart)
5. Write **NO BLOOD** on the patient's Kardex next to Blood Products



6. On the intranet in **Print On Demand Forms**, print **REFUSAL OF BLOOD/BLOOD COMPONENTS ADVANCE MEDICAL DIRECTIVE/RELEASE** and check any minor blood fractions the patient is willing to accept. Have the patient (or their legal representative) sign the form and co-sign. Place this document in the **Consents** section of their chart.

If the patient chooses to revoke their refusal of blood, have the patient or their legal representative sign the bottom part of the REFUSAL OF BLOOD/BLOOD COMPONENTS ADVANCE MEDICAL DIRECTIVE/RELEASE and cosign. Draw a line through the top part of the document as instructed at the bottom of the document.

When physicians are aware of their patient's NO BLOOD status, they can order anemia prevention and treatments as an alternative to waiting until they need a transfusion. Ensuring clear and consistent communication during a patient's hospital stay can be very challenging. But as that patient's healthcare providers, we are ethically and legally compelled to advocate for their rights.