

PART I - PATIENT INFORMATION

In the course of your treatment, it may become necessary to administer a transfusion of blood products. This form provides basic information concerning this procedure and, if signed by you, authorizes its performance by qualified medical personnel attending you.

WHAT IS A BLOOD TRANSFUSION?

A blood transfusion is a life-saving medical procedure, prescribed by a physician. Blood can be given "whole", but more often a component or combination of components is transfused. Among the most common blood components are: Red Cells, Platelets, Plasma and Cryoprecipitate.

WHERE DOES BLOOD COME FROM?

The American Red Cross provides the blood.

WHAT ASSURES THE SAFETY OF BLOOD?

Donors are carefully screened to be sure they are in good health. Prior to donation, each donor must answer questions about his or her health history. To identify and eliminate prospective donors who may be at greater risk of transmitting infectious diseases, donated blood units are also tested for evidence of infectious diseases, donated blood units are also tested for evidence of infectious disease of which the donor might be unaware.

WHAT IS AN AUTOLOGUS (SELF-) DONATION:

The patient donates his or her own blood to be stored until transfusion at a future date. Prior to donation, the patient must be evaluated by his or her own physician to be sure it is safe to donate.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF TRANSFUSION?

AIDS: Blood from persons who have been exposed to the AIDS virus can transmit the infection. However, the donor screening and laboratory testing procedures now being used for all blood donations have been very effective in eliminating almost all donors capable of transmitting the AIDS (HIV) virus.

HEPATITIS: At least two forms of hepatitis can occur after transfusion: Hepatitis B infection and non A-non-B Hepatitis. Donor screening and tests reduce the risks of this complication but cannot totally prevent it.

OTHER COMPLICATIONS: Occasionally patients may develop hives or a chill and fever associated with transfusion. These reactions, though uncomfortable, are not usually serious. Should you develop any complications inform nursing personnel or your physician at once.

ALTERNATIVES: Blood is essential to life. If one's blood level falls too low, one may go into shock or coma and suffer very serious harm, or even death. If low blood level poses such a threat in the course of your treatment, there is **NO EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO A TRANSFUSION.**

PART II – PATIENT’S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONSENT/FOR BLOOD TRANSFUSION:

I, have (read) (had read to me) the above. I understand the factors bearing on the decision whether to authorize a transfusion of blood or blood products. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and my questions have been answered satisfactorily. I hereby consent to such transfusion(s) as the physician attending me may decide is/are necessary or advisable in the course of my treatment.

WITNESS

PATIENT OR PARENT/GUARDIAN
(legally responsible person)

DATE: _____

Relationship/Address (if necessary)

