

Blood Product Education Tool

Background: We recognize that some religious groups believe that accepting blood products, or certain medical practices, may be in conflict with their beliefs. We also recognize that pregnancy and surgery increase the risks of bleeding and may lead to a worse outcome, or death, in the absence of these medical interventions. We respect the rights of our adult patients to use blood products and other practices, or not. We wish to explore and record your wishes regarding management of your pregnancy and/or your surgery.

Prenatal/Pre-operative Care

- Physician consultation - as soon as possible after entering care
- Maintain hematocrit between 33-40%
- Anesthesia consultation in the third trimester and upon admission
- Power of attorney - Identify person who will make decisions for you, if you cannot
- Advanced directives

Refusal of Blood Products

- Whole blood, packed red blood cells, fresh frozen plasma and platelets
- Preoperative autologous blood collection and storage for later reinfusion

Management options you may choose to accept or refuse

- Blood salvage (hemodilution, cell saver, cardiac bypass, hemodialysis)
- Blood fractions of plasma or cellular components (albumin, immunoglobulins, clotting factors)
- Erythropoietin (contains albumin)
- Fibrin/Thrombin adhesives
- RhoGam
- Epidural blood patch
- Acute normovolemic hemodilution (Blood in a continuous circuit with the patient)

Bloodless Management Strategies

- Blood conservation - Decreased testing, small volume sampling, point of care microtesting)
- Minimizing use of agents with antiplatelet activity
- Meticulous hemostasis during surgery
- Intravenous iron therapy

Refusal of the timely use of blood products may result in a worsened outcome for mother / baby, and may require more involved surgical interventions, including hysterectomy (removal of the uterus) with loss of fertility.

Significant blood loss in the absence of the blood products, or the above interventions, may lead to death for mother / baby.