



York Teaching Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

Refusal of Blood Components and Blood Products

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information, please contact:

Tina Ivel, Transfusion Practitioner

Tel: 01904 725830

The York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE

Tel: 01904 631313

Scarborough Hospital, Woodlands Drive,

Scarborough, YO12 6QL

Tel: 01723 368111

Contents	Page
Can anyone refuse a blood transfusion?	3
I have a planned admission in to hospital and do not want to receive any blood components as part of my treatment.	3
How will staff react to my decision to refuse a blood transfusion or blood product?	4
Will there be risks if I refuse to receive blood products as part of my treatment?	5
Will I be asked to sign a consent form?	5
What will happen if there is an emergency?	6
What will happen if I am admitted to hospital as an emergency patient?	6
What if I have other concerns?	7
Contacts for Jehovah’s Witnesses.....	8
Tell us what you think of this leaflet	11
Teaching, training and research.....	11
Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS).....	11

This leaflet tells you about your right to refuse a transfusion of blood or blood products as part of your treatment.

Can anyone refuse a blood transfusion?

Yes. We want to be sure that we treat every patient in a way which recognises their individual choices or religious beliefs.

I have a planned admission in to hospital and do not want to receive any blood components as part of my treatment.

What should I do?

Before you are admitted to hospital you will usually be invited to attend clinic sessions where you will be seen by a nurse/midwife or doctor. You should make them aware of your request for no blood components.

It is very important you tell hospital staff as soon as possible so they can plan your treatment. Please put your request in writing and ask for it to be included in your medical and, if applicable, maternity records. A copy of your advanced directive should also be placed in the front of your records.

If you are a Jehovah's Witness you will probably be carrying an Advance Decision Document with you. This is also sometimes known as a no blood card. Please let the nurse/midwife or doctor see this card to confirm that you have put your wishes in writing. It will be helpful if you have completed an Advance Decision Document (ADD) before meeting with nurse/midwife or doctor. This will give the health professionals more details of your views. This is so that they know what to do if, in an unfortunate event, you are unable to make decisions due to illness or incapacity. Your local minister should be able to provide you with these documents.

How will staff react to my decision to refuse a blood transfusion or blood product?

In all cases hospital staff will respect your right, as an adult patient, to decide what will happen to you during your treatment. In order to make sure that your request is followed, a record will be made in your medical and, if applicable, maternity notes. Blood components or blood products are given for clear medical reasons. Your carers will emphasise the reason for offering you blood components or blood products, to ensure your refusal is based on a full and clear understanding.

Will there be risks if I refuse to receive blood products as part of my treatment?

Your doctor will discuss with you the risks of treating you without the use of blood components or products. Some of the situations in which a blood transfusion is offered are life-threatening and there may be no suitable alternatives. You will need to decide if you are willing to accept these risks.

Will I be asked to sign a consent form?

Yes. Before any treatment takes place you will be asked to sign a consent form. In signing the form you are agreeing to only the treatment you are willing to accept and which you have discussed with your doctor. This will be written on the consent form before you are asked to sign it. The consent forms, approved by the NHS, have been especially designed to take account of the individual needs of patients. There is a place on the form to specify what treatment you do not want.

What will happen if there is an emergency?

If an emergency arises during your stay in hospital we will still respect your wishes. This is why it is best to have discussed your wishes ahead and have them in writing.

What will happen if I am admitted to hospital as an emergency patient?

If you are admitted to hospital in an emergency and we know your wishes, we will respect and follow them. We have a care pathway or plan of care for dealing with these situations. These have been developed following discussion with Jehovah's Witness Hospital Liaison Committee who have many years of experience. Therefore you can be confident you will receive the best possible care and treatment that is respectful of your views and wishes during your time in hospital.

In order to help us respect your wishes, please can you make sure that you:

- Have informed us in writing that you do not wish to receive any blood products during your treatment and have asked that this information is kept in your medical and, if applicable, maternity records – this could be a copy of the consent form, duly signed and dated or a copy of your most up to date Advance Decision Document.
- Have thought about any alternatives to transfusion that you would be happy to accept. For example Intra Operative cell salvage, should this be available or appropriate (see relevant patient information leaflet). This also needs to be recorded.
- Carry an up to date Advance Decision Document (ADD) with you at all times so our staff are aware of your wishes even if in the unfortunate event you are unconscious and cannot tell anyone.

What if I have other concerns?

If you have questions which have not been answered by this leaflet or are worried about any aspect of your treatment please talk to your doctor or nurse/midwife. If they cannot answer your questions they will find someone who can.

Contacts for Jehovah's Witnesses

24 hour National Information Line Contact Number
020 8906 2211

If you are a Jehovah's Witness, in addition to your local Hospital Liaison Committee, there is a local Patient Support Group which provides pastoral care and help for anyone who requests it - see below for details.

Jehovah's Witness Hospital Liaison Committee (Leeds)

Covers the York Hospital sites and can be contacted as follows or they can be contacted through the Hospital switchboard on 01904 631313:

Neil Hobson (Chair)	01132 171988 or 07904523981
Nick Berry (York):	01904 414343 or 07960 008003
Jonathan Stokes (Wakefield & Pontefract)	01977 681185 or 0759 0698956
Derek Miller (Wakefield & Pontefract)	01924 264376 or 07952 952925
Steve Withington (Wakefield & Pontefract)	07853 291286

Patient Support Group for Jehovah's Witnesses:

Brian Giles, Co-ordinator: 01904 421954

Keith Baston, Co-ordinator: 01904 630908 or
07887 914941

Terry Richmond: 01904 797624 or
07948 000116

Micah Sirr 07812 703081

Jehovah's Witness Hospital Liaison Committee (Hull)

Covers the Scarborough Hospital sites and can be contacted as below follows or through the Hospital switchboard on 01723 36811:

Philip Thomas (Chair): 01482 472064 or
07905 434922

Alan Stark: 01482 842312 or
07703 581415

Gary Holmes: 01482 858371 or
07931 288243

Mark Perkins: 01482 787551 or
07849 755565

Patient Support Group for Jehovah's Witnesses:

David Egan, Co-ordinator: 01723 582553 or
0777 9374399

Campbell McGregor: 07896 368994

Liam Toolan: 01723 371744 or
0788 9031387

Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact:

Tina Ivel, Transfusion Practitioner, The York Hospital,
Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE or
Telephone 01904 725830.

Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email pals@york.nhs.uk.

An answer phone is available out of hours.

Please telephone or email if you require this information in a different language or format

如果你要求本資訊以不同的語言或版式提供，請致電或發電郵

Jeżeli niniejsze informacje potrzebne są w innym języku lub formacie, należy zadzwonić lub wysłać wiadomość e-mail

Bu bilgileri değişik bir lisanda ya da formatta istiyorsanız lütfen telefon ediniz ya da e-posta gönderiniz



01904 725566

email: access@york.nhs.uk



Braille



Audio e.g.
CD



Large print



Electronic

Owner	Tina Ivel, Blood Transfusion Practitioner
Date first issued	June 2009
Review Date	November 2021
Version	6 (issued February 2020)
Approved by	Hospital Transfusion Team
Document Reference	PIL 530 v6

© 2020 York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. All Rights reserved