



**Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region**  
**Department of Laboratory Medicine**

*Addressograph*

**CONSENT for the ADMINISTRATION of BLOOD / BLOOD PRODUCTS**

*(To be completed for all patients requiring blood products)*

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**PATIENT SECTION**

- I have been informed of the type of blood / blood product I may receive
- I have been advised of the benefits and risks associated with the administration of blood products
- I have been advised of alternate treatments that may be available for my condition
- I have had opportunity to seek clarification and ask questions.
- I understand that any product obtained from human sources may contain unknown agents that may transmit disease.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of patient or guardian) ( ) consent, ( ) do not consent to the transfusing of blood and / or blood products.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Patient/ Authorized Person

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to Patient

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**PHYSICIAN SECTION**

I have explained the risks of transfusion and presented reasonable alternates. In my opinion, the person giving this consent understands the content of the consent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Physician

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Specific Consent for Transfusion not obtained because the:

Urgency of the situation

Patient was unable to give consent because \_\_\_\_\_



# Blood Transfusion Information\*

Blood transfusions are an important part of health care. Receiving blood in Canada is very safe with only a low risk of complications. This pamphlet addresses some of the most frequently asked questions about blood and blood product transfusions. It is for informational purposes only. Each person is unique and your circumstances will be explained by your doctor or nurse practitioner.

## **WHAT IS NORMALLY IN BLOOD?**

Blood contains red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets suspended in a liquid called plasma. Red blood cells contain “hemoglobin” which carries oxygen to all tissues of the body. White blood cells fight infection. Platelets are involved in the prevention of bleeding. Plasma is necessary for blood clotting.

## **WHAT IS A BLOOD TRANSFUSION?**

Donated blood is separated into components - including red blood cells, platelets, and plasma - after the white blood cells have been removed. These may be given to a person separately or together. The procedure of giving blood to a person through a vein is called a blood transfusion.

## **WHERE DOES BLOOD COME FROM IN CANADA?**

Approximately every minute someone in Canada needs blood. In most provinces, Canadian Blood Services is responsible for blood collection and testing. Canadian blood donors give their blood free of charge so this need is covered. If you or someone in your family would like to donate blood, contact Canadian Blood Services at 1-888-2Donate (1-888-236-6283).

## **WHY DO I NEED TO BE TRANSFUSED?**

Generally a blood transfusion is given to replace a part of the blood that is low due to bleeding, illness, or medical treatment such as chemotherapy. Red blood cells are given to correct anemia (low hemoglobin level). Platelets or plasma are given to prevent or stop bleeding.

## **WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF BLOOD TRANSFUSION?**

Receiving blood and blood products in Canada is very safe. Problems with transfusion complications are rare.

Although all blood is fully tested, there is a very small chance that the donor may have been infected. Risks of infection in Canada are\*:

HIV	1 in 7.8 million
Hepatitis C	1 in 2.3 million
Hepatitis B	1 in 153,000
West Nile Virus	1 in 1 million

\*Blood Easy 3: A Guide to Transfusion Medicine, 2011 edition



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF BLOOD TRANSFUSION?

The risk of experiencing a serious adverse event is much lower than the risk of being killed in a fatal automobile accident, which is 1 in 11,000.

More commonly, you may experience complications such as fever, chills, or hives. Most people do not react to a blood product, but if you do, notify your nurse right away.

Each person is unique, and your doctor helps you decide whether the risks of not being transfused are greater than the risk of a transfusion. In your case, the risks of not having a transfusion are:

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## WHAT HAPPENS IF I NEED A BLOOD PRODUCT?

If your doctor recommends a blood transfusion you are asked to give consent. It is very important that you understand what you are agreeing to. If you have any questions, concerns, or need clarification, ask your doctor or nurse practitioner.

The laboratory staff draw a blood sample and carefully select and prepare the blood product that your doctor requested. Tests are done to ensure the transfusion matches your blood.

## WHAT HAPPENS DURING A BLOOD TRANSFUSION?

A needle is inserted into a vein in your hand (or arm) and connected to a sterile plastic tubing which is attached to the blood product. During the transfusion, your temperature and pulse are checked and you are carefully watched by your nurse. The transfusion may take from 30 minutes to several hours depending on the blood product you are receiving.

## ARE THERE ANY ALTERNATIVES TO A BLOOD TRANSFUSION?

If you require surgery, your surgeon, and family doctor work together to ensure you are as healthy as possible. The healthier you are going into surgery, the less likely it is that you will need a blood transfusion.



There are several options available for you to consider, however they may not be suitable for you. Your doctor discusses these with you prior to the transfusion.

### **Attention:**

**Speak to your doctor to ensure that you understand why you need a blood transfusion and its risks. Canada's blood supply is one of the safest in the world!!**



## PATIENT INFORMATION

### Identification Band for Outpatient Pre-transfusion Blood Testing

An orange band will be placed on your wrist following your pre-transfusion blood work. Inside the band is a label with a unique number on it. Here is some information about the band.

**Why do I need to wear this band?** The unique number on the band provides a link between your blood specimen and any units of blood that you may receive. By comparing the unique number on the units of blood with the number on the band you are wearing, the units can be confirmed as compatible for you if you need a transfusion.

**How long must I leave the band on?** The band must be worn until removed by hospital personnel or after discharge. If you receive a blood transfusion or become pregnant during the time you are wearing the band, please tell the nursing staff when you are admitted for your transfusion or surgery. It may be necessary to repeat the testing.

**What if I remove the band?** If you are not wearing this band when you come in for your transfusion or surgery, the blood test will need to be repeated. This may cause a delay in your surgical procedure or medical treatment.

If you need to remove the band because of swelling or an allergic reaction, please notify the Transfusion Service Laboratory at the hospital where you are having the transfusion or surgery. You may need to have your blood test repeated and a new band applied before your transfusion or surgery. The staff in Transfusion Services will make these arrangements. Phone numbers are at the bottom of this form.

**What are the bands made of?** The bands are made of strong plastic. They are latex free and do not contain any powder.

**What if water gets in the band?** The bands are water resistant. They should not get in the way of any of your normal activities. You may bathe, shower or even go swimming as usual.

#### Questions?

**For further information about ID bands, please contact Transfusion Services at the site where your surgery is scheduled.**

**LaRonge Health Centre (306) 425-4830**

**Prince Albert Victoria Hospital (306) 765-6146**

**Saskatoon Royal University Hospital (306) 655-2179**