Consent or Refusal for Blood/Blood Products

Consent for Blood Transfusion

_____ I hereby consent to receive blood and/or blood product transfusion(s). I understand that in the event of severe blood loss I may require a blood transfusion. I also understand that there are risks associated with a blood transfusion, including but not limited to HIV (AIDS) infection and hepatitis, as well as fever, chills, allergic reactions, accumulation of fluid in the lungs and break down of red blood cells (hemolysis). I understand that there are risks associated with alternatives to blood transfusion, for example, self donation, directed donors, intraoperative hemodilution. I further understand that in certain life threatening emergency situations, it may be necessary to administer blood or blood products before all laboratory tests have been completed. I have been advised that I may provide my own donors or pre-deposit my own blood if I am medically able to do so and if my transfusion is not an emergency. I understand that there are no practical alternatives to the use of blood and the failure to transfuse when needed could potentially cause additional medical problems or complicate existing ones or lead to serious illness or death. I have read the information on the back of this consent about blood and blood products. I have had a chance to ask questions about other treatments for my condition, and the risks of not receiving blood or blood products.

_____________________________________________  __________________
Signature of patient or person authorized to sign and relationship  Date

Witness to signature

Refusal to Permit Blood Transfusion

_____ I request that no blood or blood products be administered to me during this hospitalization. I hereby release Southern Regional Medical Center, its personnel, and Dr. ________________ from any responsibility whatever for unfavorable reactions or any untoward results due to my refusal to permit the use of blood or blood products and I fully understand the possible consequences of such refusals on my part.

_____________________________________________  __________________
Signature of patient or person authorized to sign and relationship  Date

Witness to signature

Southern Regional Medical Center
Riverdale, Georgia  30274
Consent or Refusal for Blood/Blood Products
Form # PS 13067 (4/06)
Information about Blood and Blood Products

Your doctor has decided that you may need a transfusion as part of your treatment. This information may answer some of your questions.

You will receive only the blood products that you need.

- Red blood cells carry oxygen to all parts of the body. Anemia is a shortage of red blood cells. The heart works harder to deliver oxygen with fewer red blood cells. That is why anemic people may feel short of breath or tired with strenuous activity.
- Platelets are blood cells that help prevent bleeding. Most people feel normal with fewer platelets, but are more likely to bleed or bruise.
- Blood plasma replaces blood proteins and clotting factors. Patients with burns, shock, or bleeding problems may receive plasma.
- Blood proteins like gamma globulin or albumin may be used to treat some immune system problems.

The American Red Cross or other suppliers screen and supply all blood or blood products used at Southern Regional Medical Center. The Red Cross and other suppliers test all blood for signs of AIDS, hepatitis, syphilis, and other diseases. Careful donor selection and laboratory tests lessen, but do not eliminate the risk. In spite of all precautions and tests, problems still may occur with blood and blood products. These problems include, but are not limited to:

- Blood reaction
- Infection (Hepatitis, AIDS)
- Problems with future transfusions
- Fever
- Allergic reaction
- Death
- Fluid in the lungs
- Shock

A nurse or assistant checks your temperature, pulse, and blood pressure often during a transfusion. You should report any unusual symptoms, such as:

- fever
- chills
- headache
- trouble breathing
- nausea
- pain
- flushed feeling
- chest tightness
- rash or hives

Most blood comes from the community supply. Instead, you may want family members to give blood for you. You may choose to pre-deposit your own blood for use after surgery. These options take time and may not always be possible. There are no natural substances that can replace blood. Failure to receive blood when needed could cause additional medical problems or lead to serious illness or death.