

## 1 PRESCRIBING BLOOD COMPONENTS

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1.6 Refusal of Blood Products  
 Section 1  
 Transfusion Medicine Protocols  
 Child & Adolescent & Women's & Newborn Health Services  
 Perth Western Australia

### 1.6 REFUSAL OF BLOOD PRODUCTS

Patient Choice includes the right to refuse blood components and blood products. This refusal may occur for a variety of reasons. In many instances this is a result of personal or religious beliefs. One of the groups who refuse blood products is the Jehovah's Witnesses. Jehovah's Witnesses' primary reason for declining blood transfusions is religious.

Refusal of consent for blood products must be clearly documented in the patient's medical file, including alternative means of treatment acceptable to the patient.

However if a specific refusal of consent form for blood transfusion is available this should be used (KEMH Refusal form see below).

#### ***Jehovah's Witnesses WILL Normally accept:***

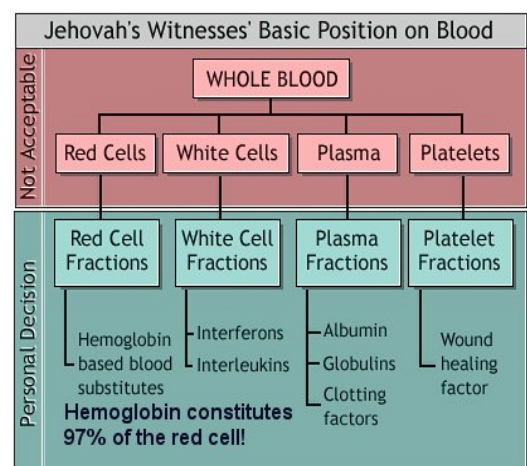
- Dextrose
- EPO (Recombinant Erythropoietin)
- G-CSF (granulocyte colony stimulating factor)
- Recombinant Factor VIIa (NovoSeven)
- Haemaccel
- Gelofusine
- Normal Saline, Hartmann's, Ringers
- Dextran

#### ***Jehovah's Witnesses WON'T Normally accept:***

- Whole Blood
- Red blood cells (packed cells)
- Platelets
- Fresh Frozen Plasma
- White blood cells (i.e. Granulocytes)
- Preoperative collection and storage of autologous blood.

#### ***Individual Jehovah's Witness decision May Vary:***

- Immunoglobulins (e.g. Anti D CMV etc.)
- Factor VIII (i.e. Biostate)
- Clotting factors (i.e. Prothrombinex)
- Albumin
- Cryoprecipitate
- Haemodilution
- Intraoperative Cell Salvage (if no allogeneic blood is used to prime the circuit and continuity is maintained with the vascular system.)
- Post-Operative Reinfusion (i.e. Bellovac reinfusion and as above)



This guideline is for general INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY. Each patient must be treated on an individual basis. One individual's wishes may not reflect all the above information.

For Management of obstetric patients the King Edwards Memorial Hospital Policy Guidelines shall be used, including the specific refusal of consent form.

These are available on line at:

<http://kemiah.health.wa.gov.au/development/manuals/sectionb/index.htm>

For Management of paediatric patients at Princess Margaret Hospital each case should be treated individually. Discussion should take place between the family and the Consultant responsible for care. The discussion, decisions and eventual outcome should be clearly documented in the Patient's Medical Records.

## **REFERENCES**

Fremantle Hospital Blood Policy Jehovah's Witnesses

Eastern Health Blood Refusal Policy