3.0 INFORMED CONSENT AND REFUSAL OF CONSENT

Policy	• Procedures for the administration blood components and products shall include a mechanism for obtaining informed consent • Elements of informed consent include discussion of: » A description of the blood component(s) and /or product(s) which may be transfused » The risks of such transfusion » The expected benefits of such transfusion » Possible alternatives to transfusion and the risks and benefits of such alternatives » The patient must be given the opportunity to ask questions and have concerns addressed » The clinical indication for transfusion shall be recorded in the patient's medical record • In the case of planned elective transfusion, this discussion should take place well in advance of the planned procedure or course of treatment to allow for the application of possible alternatives • Evidence of acceptance or refusal of informed consent for the transfusion of blood components or products shall be recorded in the patient's medical record, whether written or electronic
Reason	• Informed consent is a process undertaken jointly by a patient (or substitute decision maker where required) and a physician to make a therapeutic decision in a manner that preserves the patient's primary decision-making role in determining a course of treatment • Obtaining consent for medical treatment in general is a principle of common law (Ontario Consent to Treatment Act, 1996) • Consent specifically for transfusion of blood components and products, while not expressly required by law in Ontario, is a requirement of the standards published by the CSA, CSTM and OLA
Patient population	• All patients for whom transfusion is indicated or may be indicated • In circumstances where consent cannot be obtained (e.g.under anaesthesia or trauma)
Responsibilities of Medical Director, Transfusion Medicine	Provide information, promote education for and consult with all health professionals involved in the transfusion process about: • The risks and benefits of transfusion of blood components and products • The appropriate use of blood components and products • Alternatives to transfusion
Responsibilities of Treating physician	• Obtain consent for or refusal of transfusion and document in the patient's medical record • Complete the facility specific form for consent or refusal if applicable
Responsibilities of Treating nurse	• Confirm that consent has been recorded in the patient's medical record before requesting product from the Transfusion Medicine Service • Inform or send a record of refusal (if applicable) of transfusion to the Transfusion Medicine Service for entry in its record system
Responsibilities of Transfusion Medicine Staff	• Record refusal of consent to transfusion in Transfusion Medicine Service patient information file on receipt of notification of refusal • Check patient history in Transfusion Medicine Service information file on receipt of request for component or product • Notify Medical Director, Transfusion Medicine when blood component or product is requested for a patient for whom a record of refusal of consent is on record

Refusal of consent	• The discussion and refusal of consent shall be recorded in the patient's medical record • The Transfusion Medicine Service should have a notation of the refusal of consent in its patient information file, as a secondary check to prevent release of blood component or product that is ordered erroneously

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