The Code

Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and midwives

prioritise people
practise effectively
preserve safety
promote professionalism and trust
Recognise diversity and individual choice

Work in partnership

Act as an advocate
“Jehovah’s Witnesses love and cherish life ... They consider blood as holy as life itself.”

Law, Ethics, Religion, and Blood Management
Petra Seeber, Aryeh Shander
2013
“Abstain ... from blood”

Acts of Apostles 15:20
Not Accepted By Jehovah’s Witnesses

WHOLE BLOOD

Red Cells  White Cells  Platelets  Plasma

“This is a deeply-held core value and any non-consensual transfusion is regarded as a gross physical violation”

Royal College of Surgeons of England – Caring for patients who refuse blood. 2016
Not Accepted By Jehovah’s Witnesses

Whole Blood

- Red Cells
- White Cells
- Platelets
- Plasma

Derivatives – Patient Choice
Advance Decision to Refuse Specified Medical Treatment

1. I ________________________ (print or type full name), born ________________________ (date) complete this document to set forth my treatment instructions in case of my incapacity. The refusal of specified treatment(s) contained herein continues to apply to that/those treatment(s) even if those medically responsible for my welfare and/or any other persons believe that my life is at risk.

2. I am one of Jehovah’s Witnesses with firm religious convictions. With full realization of the implications of this position I direct that NO TRANSFUSIONS OF BLOOD or primary blood components (red cells, white cells, plasma or platelets) be administered to me in any circumstances. I also refuse to predonate my blood for later infusion.

3. No Lasting Power of Attorney nor any other document that may be in force should be taken as giving authority to disregard or override my instructions set forth herein. Family members, relatives, or friends may disagree with me, but any such disagreement does not diminish the strength or substance of my refusal of blood or other instructions.

4. Regarding end-of-life matters: [initial one of the two choices]
   (a) _____ I do not want my life to be prolonged if, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, my situation is hopeless.
   (b) _____ I want my life to be prolonged as long as possible within the limits of generally accepted medical standards, even if this means that I might be kept alive on machines for years.

5. Regarding other healthcare and welfare instructions (such as current medications, allergies, medical problems or any other comments about my healthcare wishes):

   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

6. I consent to my relevant medical records and the details of my condition being shared with the Emergency Contact below and/or with member(s) of the Hospital Liaison Committee for Jehovah’s Witnesses.

7. Signature ________________________ NHS No. ________________________ Date ________________________

Address ________________________

8. STATEMENT OF WITNESSES: The person who signed this document did so in my presence. He or she appears to be of sound mind and free from duress, fraud, or undue influence. I am 18 years of age or older.

   Signature of Witness ________________________ Signature of Witness ________________________
   Name ________________________ Occupation ________________________
   Address ________________________
   Telephone ________________________ Mobile ________________________

9. EMERGENCY CONTACT:

   Name ________________________
   Address ________________________
   Telephone ________________________ Mobile ________________________

10. GENERAL PRACTITIONER CONTACT DETAILS: A copy of this document is lodged with the Registered General Medical Practitioner whose details appear below.

   Name ________________________
   Address ________________________
   Telephone ________________________ Mobile ________________________

   Advance Decision to Refuse Specified Medical Treatment
   (signed/document issued)
Children

“It is essential that doctors make every effort to accommodate beliefs rather than ... looking to the courts as the first resort.”

Medical Ethics Today
The BMA's Handbook of Ethics and Law
British Medical Association Ethics Department
THIRD EDITION

HLC Hospital Liaison Committee
Patient Blood Management

Maximise Erythropoiesis
- IV Iron
- ESAs

Minimise Blood Loss
- Haemostasis
- Cell Salvage

Manage Anaemia
Tolerate lower Hb
Blood Salvage

Minimise Blood Loss

Washed & Filtered RBCs

Saline & Heparin

Processing Unit

Reservoir

Waste

Saline Wash

HLC
Hospital Liaison Committee
Minimise Blood Loss

Tranexamic Acid

CRASH2
Clinical Randomisation of an Antifibrinolytic in Significant Haemorrhage

40 Countries

274 Hospitals

20,211 Patients

33% Transfusion Reduction

HLC Hospital Liaison Committee
Hospital Liaison Committee Network
for Jehovah’s Witnesses

Collaboration - Information - Support