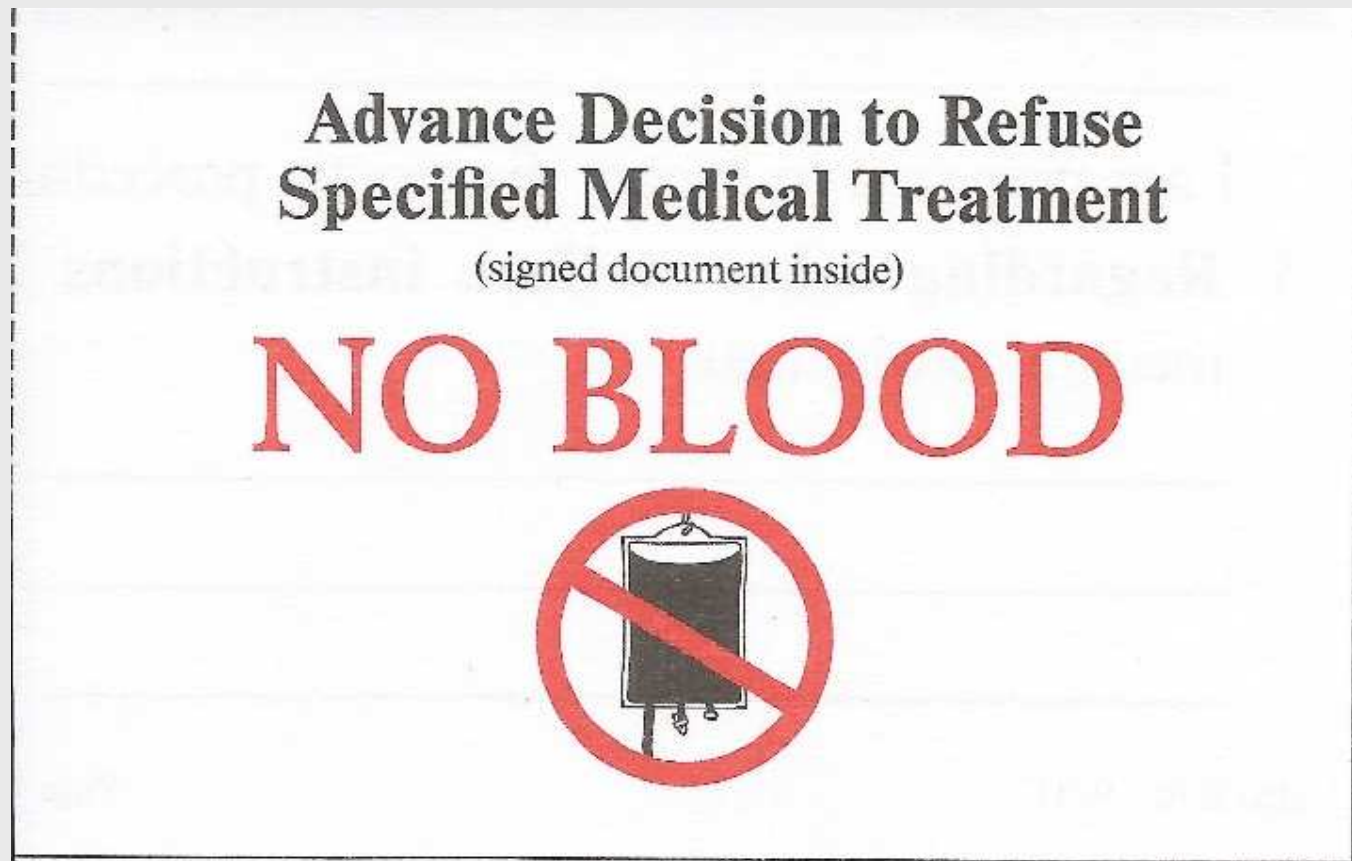


# **Jehovah's Witnesses**

# **Our Views on Health Care**

## Refusal of Blood Transfusion



Why do we take this view ?

“Keep abstaining from . . . **BLOOD**  
. . . if you carefully keep yourselves from these  
things, you will prosper. Good health to you!”

Acts 15:28,29

Witness patients will  
uniformly apply this  
Bible Law to:

- φ Whole blood
- φ Packed Red cells
- φ White blood cells
- φ Platelets
- φ Plasma

# Use of Blood Derivatives

## Patient's Individual Choice

- φ Immunoglobulin's (including Anti-D)
- φ Albumin
- φ Clotting Factors ( e.g. Fibrinogen, Factor VIII)
- φ Serums, etc.

## Autologous Procedures (Patient's Individual Choice)

- φ Cell salvage
- φ Heart bypass
- φ Epidural autologous blood patch

# Options when blood is refused..

## Medical Alternatives to Blood Transfusion



*Practical, Effective,  
Safe*

## Care Plan for Surgery in Jehovah's Witnesses

To assist in communicating the patient's  
choices to the clinical team



## DEVELOPING A BLOOD CONSERVATION CARE PLAN FOR JEHOVAH'S WITNESS PATIENTS WITH MALIGNANT DISEASE

### CARE PLAN FOR WOMEN IN LABOUR REFUSING A BLOOD TRANSFUSION

(As referred to in the RCOG News of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists)

This document is an aid for medical staff and midwives managing a Jehovah's Witness or other patient who declines blood. Autologous procedures such as blood salvage and the use of plasma-derived products such as clotting agents are a matter of personal choice for each Witness. Most will carry an advance decision document expressing their wishes. Please check with the patient.

**Risk management**

*We trust this document will be helpful to the clinical team treating one of Jehovah's Witnesses for a malignant condition where blood or blood component support would normally be part of the treatment plan.*

*Patients who are Jehovah's Witnesses understand the constraints their beliefs produce. They wish to work with their doctors to be effectively treated within these constraints and welcome frank open discussions at all stages.*

Presented at the British Society for Haematology 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting  
Bournemouth, April 2007

**“The inherent risks of blood, along with the continued rise in blood costs are likely to favour the continued development and use of alternatives to blood transfusion.” *The Lancet May 25, 2013***

# Advance Decision Document

## **Advance Decision to Refuse Specified Medical Treatment**

(signed document inside)

# NO BLOOD





## 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 even if those medically responsible  
for my welfare and/or any other persons believe that such treatments are necessary  
to sustain my life.**
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. **Regarding minor fractions of blood** (for example: albumin, coagulation factors,  
immunoglobulins): [Initial **one** of the three choices below.]  
(a) \_\_\_\_\_ I refuse all  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_ I accept all  
(c) \_\_\_\_\_ I want to qualify either (3a) or (3b) above and my treatment choices are as follows:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. **Regarding autologous procedures** (involving my own blood, for example: haemodilution,  
heart bypass, dialysis, intra-operative and post-operative blood salvage):  
[Initial **one** of the three choices below.]  
(a) \_\_\_\_\_ I refuse all such procedures or therapies  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_ I am prepared to accept any such procedure  
(c) \_\_\_\_\_ I accept only the following procedures:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am prepared to accept diagnostic procedures, such as blood samples for testing.

6. I consent to my 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 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	_____ Name
_____ Occupation	_____ Occupation
_____ Address	_____ Address
_____ Telephone	_____ Telephone
_____ Mobile	_____ 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 Number(s)



# NO BLOOD

(signed document inside)  
**Advance Decision to Refuse  
Specified Medical Treatment**

**Advance Decision to Refuse  
Specified Medical Treatment**

(signed document inside)

# NO BLOOD



“You must respect a competent patient’s decision to refuse an investigation or treatment, even if you think their decision is wrong or irrational. You may advise the patient of your clinical opinion, but you must not put pressure on them to accept your advice. You must be careful that your words and actions do not imply judgement of the patient or their beliefs or values”

GMC : *Personal beliefs and medical practice*. April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013

## Further information

**Hospital  
Information  
Services for  
Jehovah's  
Witnesses.  
24 hr. 02089  
062211**



**Local  
Hospital  
Liaison  
Committee  
07942  
919140**



**Local Trust  
Policy**



**JW.ORG**

Click on:  
'Find Resources For'  
'Medical Professionals'

...and finally

**Jehovah's Witnesses very much appreciate the cooperation and support we continue to receive from members of the medical profession in developing strategies which respect our beliefs.**

**We are pleased to have had the opportunity to explain our views today**

ANY QUESTIONS ?

The logo consists of a central blue square with the text "JW" on the top line and ".ORG" on the bottom line, both in white. This square is flanked by two vertical grey bars of equal width.

JW  
.ORG