

CENTER FOR BLOODLESS MEDICINE AND SURGERY

A M E S A G E F O R O U R P A T I E N T S

Dear Patient

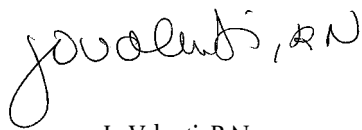
Welcome to Hackensack University Medical Center's Bloodless Medicine and Surgery newsletter. The focus of this publication is to provide you with up-to-date information on bloodless medicine and surgery and share with you different case studies.

As manager of the program, I would like to share with you some background information about myself. I am a registered nurse and a graduate of Thomas Jefferson University School of Nursing in Philadelphia. For 15 years I taught childbirth classes and for 20 years I served as a breastfeeding counselor. During this time I also served as a strong advocate for patients' rights. Recently, I was graduated from the Bloodless Medicine and Surgery Institute in Cleveland, Ohio.

It is the goal of The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery to provide transfusion-free medicine and surgery to those patients who, for religious or other reasons, reject blood transfusions. My goal is to assist and support the patient through the bloodless process.

If you would like more information on the center or if you would like to refer a friend to the program, please call 201-996-2963.

Sincerely



Jo Valenti, R.N.
Nurse Manager

The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery
Hackensack University Medical Center

Mission

The mission of The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center is to ensure that the dignity and legal rights of patients are respected, especially the right to informed consent.

MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q What is bloodless medicine and surgery?

A It is medical treatment or surgery without the use of stored blood products or non-blood management of various medical conditions.

Q What are the benefits of The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center?

A As a participant in our program, patients have their own nurse manager committed to protect their rights regarding bloodless medicine and surgery. The nurse manager guides patients through the bloodless process; assists patients in locating a participating physician in the program; and informs them of alternative methods of treatment.

At Hackensack University Medical Center there are more than 25 specialties that participate in The Bloodless Medicine and Surgery Program.

Q What are some methods used in bloodless medicine and surgery?

A The patient's specific situation determines the method of treatment a physician will select.

Some of the techniques that are available:

- ◆ Volume Expanders – The use of non-blood intravenous fluids to replace volume.

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CASE STUDY

Sue, a woman who refuses blood transfusions, gets in her car to go to the grocery store, which is only up the road. Suddenly, the car heading in the opposite direction, swerves into Sue's lane. The cars collide head on. Even though all of the passengers in both cars are wearing their seatbelts, the impact is so severe that Sue is unconscious and suffering from multiple traumas. A passerby calls for help and the paramedics arrive almost immediately. The paramedics examine Sue and transport her to the nearest trauma center. On the way, they look through her wallet for identification and any medical directives. They are successful in finding her identity but no medical directive is in the wallet.

By the time the ambulance arrives at the Emergency Room, Sue has lost a tremendous amount of blood. Since there was

no medical directive stating her "NO BLOOD" status, doctors transfused Sue with three units of blood.

Sue's brother, her next of kin, was contacted and arrived at the emergency room shortly after. Upon arrival he was informed of Sue's condition and was advised that she had received three units of blood. When he expressed to the nurse that Sue doesn't accept blood transfusions, the nurse advised him that Sue had no identification stating that she doesn't accept blood.

Which person in this scenario is at fault for the fact that a NO BLOOD patient received blood?

The Patient!

Moral: Never leave home without your medical directive card!

- ◆ Minimally Invasive Surgery techniques:
 - Interventional radiological techniques
 - Laparoscopic surgery
 - Endoscopy

YOUR ROLE

As a participant in the Bloodless Medicine and Surgery Program at the medical center, you have the responsibility as a patient to ensure that your NO BLOOD status is properly identified and communicated to all individuals involved in your care. All patients that participate in the program are required to sign a consent form which "releases and holds harmless Hackensack University Medical Center and its employees and all physicians including

FYI

The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery is supported by the administration of Hackensack University Medical Center. The program is comprised of dedicated, qualified, caring physicians and nurses who will explore and explain all possible alternatives to blood transfusions.

Did you know that a patient's right to refuse a blood transfusion is protected under the Federal Patient Self Determination Act? This act was put into law the end of 1991.

residents and agents from any damages that might result from participation in this program."

At Hackensack University Medical Center, bloodless patients are identified with:

- ◆ Special wristbands
- ◆ Stickers on their charts
- ◆ Signs above their beds

All of these symbols clearly identify that the patient is a participant in the bloodless medicine and surgery program.

Be Sure to Carry Your Medical Directive with You At All Times!



Let Us Hear From You

If there are any topics that you would like to see featured in the next issue, please call at 201-996-2963.

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MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- ◆ Cell Saver – Reinfuses blood that is lost during surgery.
- ◆ Bone Marrow Stimulation – Use of a new pharmaceutical agent that tricks the bone marrow into producing red blood cells at a faster rate.