

Elements of Informed Consent for a blood transfusion for Authorized Prescribers

PROVIDE

The opportunity for discussion to ensure the patient (or substitute decision maker) understands the information

DISCUSS

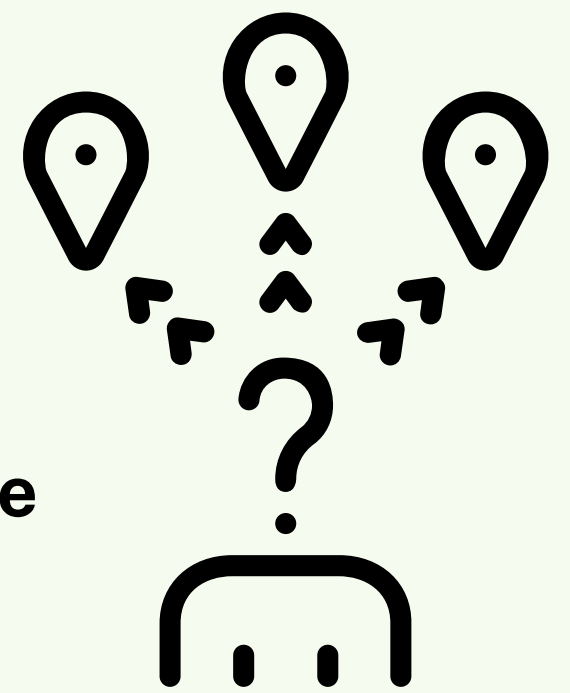
- The reason for the transfusion
- The benefits
- The risks
- The alternatives
- The right to refuse

DOCUMENT

If the patient gives consent OR refuses, this must be documented within the health chart.

ALTERNATIVES TO TRANSFUSION

- Evaluate hemoglobin at least 3 months in advance of surgery
- Investigate and treat anemia
- Investigate and treat coagulopathies
- Iron replacement
- Use surgical techniques to minimize blood loss
- Antifibrinolytics
- Restrict the number of specimen collections to decrease the potential need for transfusion



To aide this discussion

A patient education pamphlet titled “Blood and Blood Product Transfusion: A Patient Guide” is available through library services
<https://libcat.nshealth.ca/en/permalink/chpams35840>
French, Chinese, and Arabic translations are also available

Questions? Contact us at NSPBCP@nshealth.ca

