## STANDARD

1. Staff will at all times respect the beliefs of the patient and acknowledge their right to refuse blood products as with any other medical procedure. If the patient has a Health Care Directive in relation to blood products a copy is to be filed on the patient's health record.
2. Patients must be fully informed of the risks associated with their refusal to receive blood products. This discussion and their refusal to accept blood products is to be fully documented in the patient's health record.
3. Any alternatives to blood products are to be fully discussed with the patient.
4. The patient should be encouraged to have a support person present during these discussions.
5. In the case of children, where a parent or guardian refuses a transfusion, further discussion will be sought, and options explored.
6. If a patient is unable to communicate because of injury or illness, every endeavor will be made to ascertain their wishes. If it is not possible for their wishes to be determined then care will be provided pursuant to policy 1.1.1 Informed Consent.
7. If the patient refuses blood products the refusal of blood products section of the Informed Consent Form must be completed.

## STANDARDS TO BE MET

**1. Prescribing**

Blood and blood products are prescribed drugs under Schedule A of the Medicines Act 1981. As such they must therefore be prescribed and ordered by a registered medical practitioner and this entry must be made in the patient's health record.

**2. Levels of Risk**

Transfusions of blood and blood products incorporate three (3) levels of risk: ***NB:*** *Risk defined in terms of infection, allergy, infused volume*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| a. | Almost no risk: | • Immunoglobulin<br>• Albumin |
| b. | Very low risk | • Factor IX concentrates<br>• Factor VIII concentrates |
| c. | Higher risk:<br>(level dependent on: donor truthfulness and test sensitivity) | • Red cells<br>• Granulocytes<br>• Platelets<br>• Fresh frozen and dried plasma<br>• Cryoprecipitate |

**3. Information Leaflet**

The patient information sheet on blood and blood products prepared by the New Zealand Blood Service should be widely available, particularly in areas where blood and blood products are given.

## REFERENCES

- New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990
- Medicines Act 1981
- Care of Children Act 2004

## ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 1.2.6 Refusal of Blood Products
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 1.2.6 protocol 2 Refusal of Blood Products - Treatment of Children in need of Alternative Blood Replacement Therapy
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 1.2.6 protocol 3 Refusal of Blood Products - Trauma or Acute Bleeding Management
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 1.2.6 protocol 4 Refusal of Blood Products - Elective Surgery Management
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 1.1.1 Informed Consent
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 1.2.5 Jehovah's Witness Patients
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board Informed Consent form (7752)
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board Form FM.B2.1 Blood Products - Understanding Regarding Refusal of Blood Products for Minors
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board Form FM.H1.1 Health Care Directive
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board Form FM.J1.1 Jehovah's Witness Patients - Providing Care Information Sheet