



Informed Consent for Blood Products Suggested Discussion Points with Patients

This document is to serve as a guide of items to discuss with your patient when obtaining informed consent for transfusion.

1. Need or potential need to transfuse
2. Benefits of the transfusion
 - Treatment – such as increase the oxygen carrying capacity or stop bleeding
 - Prevention – such as preoperatively for potential factor loss or platelet loss
3. Risks of transfusion

- Infectious Risk – (see table below)

Infectious Agent	Estimated Risk per Unit Transfused
HIV	1:1,467,000
HCV	1:1,149,000
HBV	1:843,000 to 1:1,208,000

- Non-infectious risks – most common are allergic reactions and febrile, non-hemolytic reaction
 - 3 most common **rare** events that are potentially fatal
 - Transfusion Related Acute Lung Injury (TRALI)
 - Hemolytic Transfusion Reaction
 - Transfusion Associated Circulatory Overload (TACO)
4. Alternative to transfusion
 - Erythropoietin
 - Blood substitutes are not available at UNC Hospitals
 5. You have the right to refuse blood products
 - Must complete the *Refusal to Consent to the Use of Blood or Blood Products*
 - Consequences of refusing blood transfusion

Document the discussion and the consent on the *Request and Consent for Operation or Procedure* form. In the procedure space put the name of the procedure or, if this is for transfusion only, write transfusion.