

WHAT IS BLOOD CONSERVATION?

Blood conservation is a comprehensive approach to patient care that strives to reduce or eliminate the need for donor blood transfusions. Working together, doctors, nurses and other hospital staff use specialized techniques and equipment to reduce blood loss, retain a patient's own blood during treatment, and, if needed, maximize a patient's own blood production.

WHY BLOOD CONSERVATION?

A blood conservation program can assist with better patient outcomes, peace of mind, avoidance of possible treatment delays during periodic blood shortages and conservation of local and national blood supplies.

This program goes beyond an individual doctor's effort or a particular piece of equipment. Blood conservation brings together the patient and a team of health care professionals to manage the patient's blood needs before, during and after a hospital stay. Upon admission, you will be asked to state your preference regarding blood transfusion. All patients are considered to be in the program. Methodist Hospital's blood conservation program coordinator is available to provide you with information about blood conservation and answer questions about the program related to your care.

WHAT ARE POTENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH BLOOD CONSERVATION?

- Reduced complications (including reduced risk of infections, reactions, lowered immune response)
- Shorter hospital stays
- Less exposure to viruses
- Reduction in donor blood transfusions

WHAT IF SURGERY IS NEEDED?

Your doctor can work with the program coordinator and the medical director to evaluate the need for specific medications or

nutritional adjustments to ensure you are adequately prepared for surgery. Prior to your surgery date, you may be asked to come to our Infusion Center for treatment to boost your own red blood cell production. If you live outside the Omaha area, we will work with your local clinic. Such treatments will lessen the chance that you will need a donor blood transfusion while in the hospital.

BLOOD CONSERVING TECHNOLOGIES AT METHODIST HOSPITAL

Methodist Hospital already employs wide-ranging technologies that minimize blood loss while providing state-of-the-art care for our patients, including:

- **Cell saver**
- **Electrocautery**
- **Harmonic scalpel**
- **Acute Normovolemic Hemodilution**
- **Hypotensive anesthesia**
- **Platelet gel/sealant**
- **Skin monitors**

WHAT IF I HAVE AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE THAT SPECIFICALLY REFERENCES BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS?

Methodist Hospital must be advised of any limitations you wish to place on the use of blood and blood components. If this is the case, please contact us as soon as possible. If you have an advance directive indicating your preferences, please bring a copy to your doctor and a copy to the hospital for your medical chart. In some limited situations, the law may impose restrictions on an institution's ability to withhold blood.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To contact us or to learn more about the Methodist Hospital Blood Conservation Program, call the coordinator at (402) 354-3981, (877) 850-3371 or visit www.bestcare.org.



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