1 BLOOD PRODUCT PRESCRIPTION

INFORMED CONSENT

BLOOD PRODUCT PRESCRIPTION

The prescription of blood and blood components is the responsibility of a doctor or midwife/nurse practitioner licensed to prescribe blood components.

The prescription sheet shall contain the full patient identification details and specify:

- The type of blood product, including any special requirements (e.g. Irradiation, CMV Neg, etc).
- The quantity.
- The duration of transfusion.
- Any special instructions (e.g. Any medication required before or during the transfusion).

The prescription constitutes the legal instruction to administer the blood product.

The prescribing clinician shall also document the following in the patient's medical record:

- The transfusion decision rationale based on recognised clinical practice guidelines.
- The outcome of the transfusion including whether or not it achieved the desired effect and the occurrence and management of any adverse effects.

Consideration should be given as to the risks and benefits of transfusion and whether any alternative treatment is suitable.

A discussion should take place with the patient regarding Informed Consent for Transfusion.

INFORMED CONSENT

Informed consent for transfusion means that a dialogue has occurred between the doctor and the patient. The significant risks, benefits and alternatives to transfusion including the patient's right to refuse should be discussed.

To aid this discussion a range of patient information leaflets are available for use at WNHS, these include:-

Adults & Babies
Blood Transfusion - KEMH Patient Information Leaflet
Blood Transfusion for your Baby - KEMH Patient Information Leaflet
Pregnant Women

Anti D – You and Your Baby

Anti D – Information regarding Anti D for women with early pregnancy loss.

Surgical Patients

Blood Transfusion – Intraoperative Cell Salvage

All these leaflets may be viewed on the Pathology - Patient Information page WNHS intranet. Stocks of these leaflets may be obtained by contacting the Transfusion Medicine Laboratory or by emailing the Transfusion Coordinator. There is also a Multi cultural consent checklist with brochures available in different languages available on the ARCBS website Multi cultural consent checklist.

As a result of the consent discussion the patient should:

- Understand what medical action is recommended and be given an opportunity to ask questions.
- Be aware of the risks and benefits associated with the transfusion.
- Appreciate the risks and possible consequences of not receiving the recommended therapy.
- Give consent for the transfusion.

Informed consent must be documented in the patient’s medical notes e.g. in the progress notes, as a named risk on the consent form for a procedure, on the Generic Consent form (MR295) or on the Neonatology Consent for Blood Products form (MR417).

Rh D Immunoglobulin (Anti D) - The woman must be informed and appropriately counselled as to the reasons for requiring Anti D. A patient information leaflet (‘Anti D You and your Baby’ or ‘Anti D Important Information for Rh D Negative Women’) should be provided and the informed consent section on the Rh D immunoglobulin (Anti D) Record form (MR007) must be signed.

In the event of the patient being unable to give consent for whatever reason, Local, State or Federal Legislation regarding consent for a medical procedure will apply.

If the patient/parent REFUSES to Consent for Blood Transfusion see WNHS Transfusion Protocols - Refusal of Blood Products

REFERENCES


Transfusion Therapy, nursing implications, Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing; 1997 1(3): 61-72.
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