

## Frequently Asked Questions About Informed Consent for Blood Transfusion

### 1. What is the purpose of obtaining informed consent to transfuse blood components?

Patients have the right to make an informed decision regarding the indications, risks, alternatives, and benefits of a blood transfusion. Informed consent is required for all blood components.

### 2. What forms can be used to document consent?

- [“Consent for Blood Product Transfusion” \(New\)](#)
- [“Consent to Operation, Procedures, Blood Transfusion and Administration of Anesthetics”](#)

### 3. Who is responsible for obtaining informed consent?

Physicians and Advanced Practice Providers (APPs).

### 4. Who is responsible for verifying that the consent was obtained?

The nurse or provider administering the transfusion must confirm that a signed consent form is present before proceeding. If absent, consent must be obtained.

### 5. Do I need consent for transfusion if the patient already has a signed consent form in their chart?

If the patient has consented to an operation/procedure that may require blood product transfusion during or after, a new consent is not required.

However, if the patient requires a blood or blood product transfusion for a condition unrelated to the surgery or is a medical patient not having a procedure, then a new consent is required.

### 6. What if a transfusion is required in an emergency?

In an emergency, consent is not required. The physician must clearly document the emergent condition and the use of blood. If ongoing transfusions are needed, consent should be obtained as soon as possible.

### 7. What if the patient refuses to consent to a blood transfusion?

Per policy 1438, the physician is required to complete the [“Refusal to Permit Medical/Surgical Treatment”](#) form. Notify Blood Bank (4-2585) immediately. This information is entered into the laboratory information system (LIS) to question future blood orders.

### 8. Are two physicians allowed to consent on behalf of a patient?

No, according to the California Hospital Association, there is no provision in California or Federal law allowing two doctors (or any other health professionals) to consent on behalf of a patient in a hospital.

Review the following policies/resources for more information:

[13012 Administration of Blood and Blood Components](#)

[1411 Consent to Operation, Procedure, Blood Transfusion, etc.](#)

[1438 Refusal to Accept Blood Transfusions](#)

[California Hospital Association Consent Manual](#)

Questions? Please contact the  
**Transfusion Safety Officer** for more  
information.

Transfusion Services: [916-734-2585](#)