



HOSPITAL LIAISON COMMITTEE

for Jehovah's Witnesses

HLC WALES

OBJECTIVES



POSITION

Understanding the position of Jehovah's Witnesses on medical treatment



STRATEGIES

Implementing clinical strategies to preempt the use of allogeneic blood transfusion



NETWORK

Utilizing the information network that Jehovah's Witnesses have established to support clinicians





POSITION

What do we believe?



Jehovah's Witnesses are **not antimedicine or antisurgery**; many are doctors and nurses. They . . . **seek medical attention** for themselves and their families.

Essam El-Hamamy et al. | **UNITED KINGDOM**

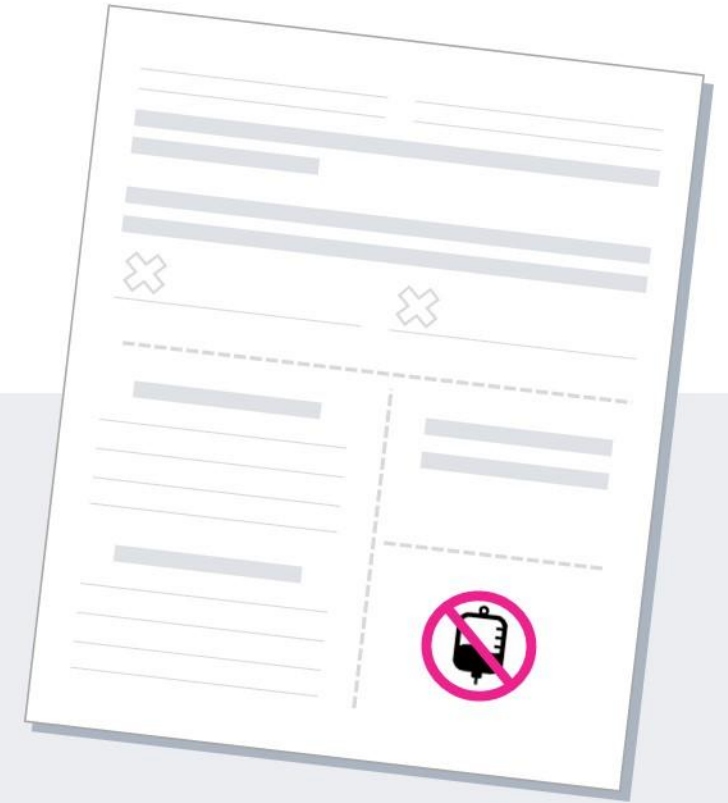
El-Hamamy E, Newman DS. **Jehovah's Witnesses and those who refuse blood transfusion**. In: Arulkumaran S, Karoshi M, Keith LG, et al, editors. *A Comprehensive Textbook of Postpartum Hemorrhage: An Essential Clinical Reference for Effective Management*. 2nd ed. London (UK): Sapiens Publishing; 2012. p. 587-601. [ISBN: 978-0-9552282-7-8]



“The prohibition of blood transfusion is a ***deeply held core value*** and is a sign of **respect for the sanctity of life**”.

Association of Anaesthetists – Guidelines: Anaesthesia and peri-operative care for Jehovah’s Witnesses. 2018 | **UNITED KINGDOM**

INFORMED CONSENT & PREPARATION OF THE ELECTIVE PATIENT



TWO IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Advance Decision to Refuse Specific

- I, _____
born _____ (_____)
forth my treatment instructions in case of my illness. This **treatment(s) contained herein continues to apply those medically responsible for my welfare and, my life is at risk.**
- I am one of Jehovah's Witnesses with firm religious beliefs. In view of the implications of this position I direct that **or primary blood components (red cells, white cells, platelets, plasma, cryoprecipitate, fibrinogen, and factor concentrates)** administered to me in any circumstances. I also refuse any transfusion of blood or blood components.
- No Lasting Power of Attorney nor any other document has been taken as giving authority to disregard or override my instructions. My family members, relatives, or friends may disagree with me, but I do not wish to diminish the strength or substance of my refusal of treatment.
- Regarding end-of-life matters: [initial one of the two options below]
(a) _____ I do not want to be kept alive by extraordinary measures in the final phase of an incurable illness, permanently unconscious, or in a permanent vegetative state.
(b) _____ I want to be kept alive by extraordinary measures in the final phase of an incurable illness, permanently unconscious, or in a permanent vegetative state.
- Regarding other healthcare and welfare instructions:** I have no other instructions regarding my medical treatment, allergies, medical problems or any other comments:



Hospital Liaison Committee
for Jehovah's Witnesses
Wales

SAMPLE CHECKLIST FOR PATIENTS 18 YEARS AND OVER WHO REFUSE BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS

Patient Name :	Address :	Date of Birth
		Telephone

In order to assist my treating team, this **sample checklist** sets out below the treatments I am willing to accept (where clinically indicated) during my hospital stay, procedure, or delivery:

TREATMENTS		WILLING TO ACCEPT?			
1	NON-BLOOD THERAPIES / AGENTS (Normally acceptable to Jehovah's Witnesses)				
	Haematinics e.g. intravenous iron, oral iron, folic acid, vitamin B12	Yes	No		
	Erythropoiesis-stimulating agents e.g. recombinant erythropoietin [EPO]	Yes	No		
	Thrombopoietic agents e.g. Romiplostim, Eltrombopag	Yes	No		
	Granulocyte Colony-stimulating Factor [G-CSF]	Yes	No		
	Procoagulants e.g. desmopressin [DDAVP], vitamin K	Yes	No		
	Antifibrinolytics e.g. Tranexamic Acid [TXA], Aprotinin	Yes	No		
	Vasoconstrictors e.g. vasopressin	Yes	No		
	Other? (specify)	Yes	No		
2	AUTOLOGOUS PROCEDURES / STRATEGIES (Individual choice for Jehovah's Witnesses)				
	Intraoperative Blood Cell Salvage [ICS]	Yes	No		
	Postoperative Blood Cell Salvage (from wound drainage)	Yes	No		
	Autologous gels and sealants e.g. platelet gel, epidural blood patch	Yes	No		
	Haemodialysis / haemofiltration	Yes	No		
	Cardiopulmonary bypass	Yes	No		
	Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation [ECMO]	Yes	No		
	Other? (specify)	Yes	No		
3	BLOOD FRACTIONS / DERIVATIVES (Individual choice for Jehovah's Witnesses)				
	Cryoprecipitate	Yes	No		
	Fibrinogen Concentrate	Yes	No		
	Human Albumin Solution	Yes	No		
	Immunoglobulins including Anti-D	Yes	No		
	Tissue Sealants (plasma-derived) e.g. FloSeal, Tisseel	Yes	No		
	Prothrombin Complex Concentrates [PCCs] e.g. Beriplex, Octaplex	Yes	No		
	Recombinant Factor VIIa (synthetic, but may contain derivative traces)	Yes	No		
	Other? (specify)	Yes	No		
4	BLOOD / BLOOD COMPONENTS (Unacceptable to Jehovah's Witnesses)				
	Plasma, Fresh Frozen Plasma, Octaplas, lyophilized plasma e.g. LyoPlas	Yes	No		
	Platelets	Yes	No		
	Red cells	Yes	No		
	White cells	Yes	No		
5	ADVANCE DECISION TO REFUSE TREATMENT [ADRT]		Completed?	Attached?	
	If an ADRT has been completed, attach a copy of the ADRT document	Yes	No	Yes	No

Please ensure these choices are transferred to an official hospital consent form & signed by my treating team.

Wales Hospital Liaison Committee for Jehovah's Witnesses. Email: info@hlcwales.org

I agree that my medical records and the details of my condition being shared with the hospital and/or with member(s) of the Hospital Liaison Committee.

NHS No. _____ Date _____

WITNESSES: The person who signed this document did so in my presence and was of sound mind and free from duress, fraud, or undue influence or older.

Signature of witness

Name _____ Occupation _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____

FOR CONTACT
document is
signed General
use details

NO BLOOD

NO BLOOD

NO BLOOD
(signed document inside)
Advance Decision to Refuse Specified Medical Treatment

Advance Decision to Refuse Specified Medical Treatment
(signed document inside)

NO BLOOD

NO BLOOD

NO BLOOD

“

Declining a treatment modality should not be considered the same as refusal of medical care as illustrated by the management of Jehovah's Witness patients who do not accept transfusions”.

Aryeh Shander 1 | Lawrence Tim Goodnough 2. | **UNITED STATES**

1. Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care medicine, Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, and TeamHealth Research Institute, Englewood, New Jersey

2. Department of Pathology & Medicine, Stanford University, Stanford, California

DOI: 10.1002/ajh.25167

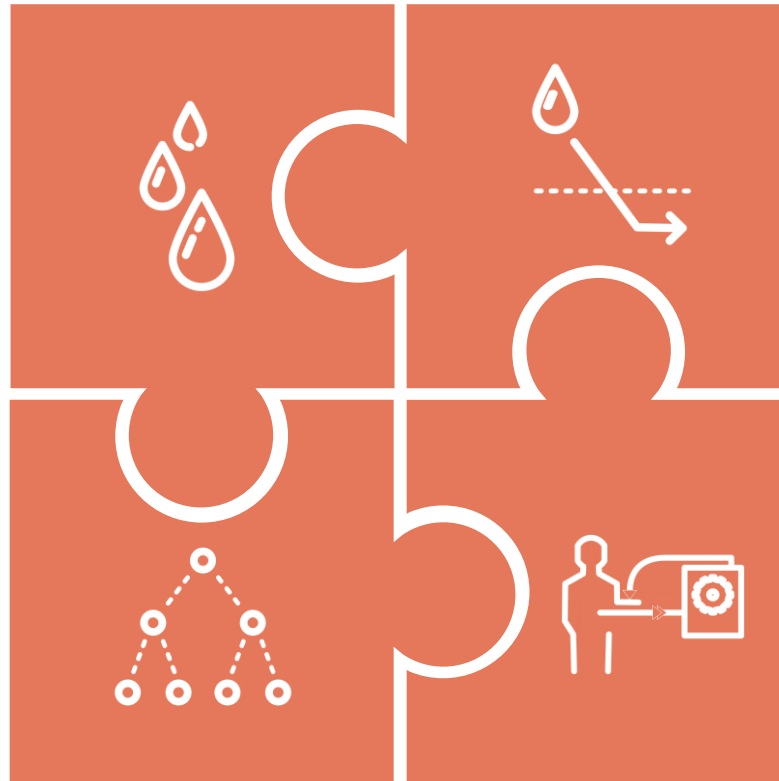


STRATEGIES

How can you assist us?

STRATEGIES

MINIMIZATION OF
BLOOD LOSS

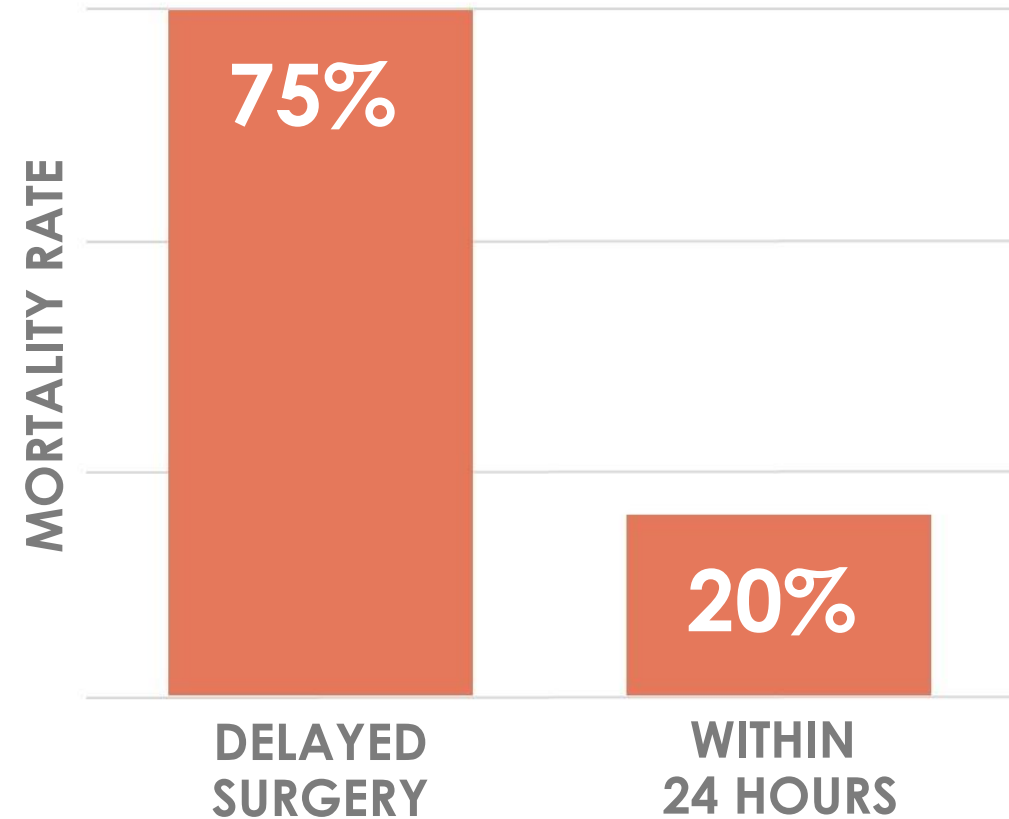


TOLERANCE
OF ANEMIA

ENHANCEMENT OF
HEMATOPOIESIS

AUTOLOGOUS
BLOOD MANAGEMENT

TIME EQUALS LIFE



Adapted from: Atabek U, Spence RK, Pello M, Alexander J, Camishion R. **Pancreaticoduodenectomy without homologous blood transfusion in an anemic Jehovah's Witness.** *Arch Surg* 1992;127(3):349-51. [PMID: 1347993]





“The multiple missed opportunities to appropriately manage and preserve the patient’s own blood is also the main driver for transfusion”

The urgent need to implement patient blood management:
policy brief. | **W.H.O**

ISBN 978-92-4-003574-4

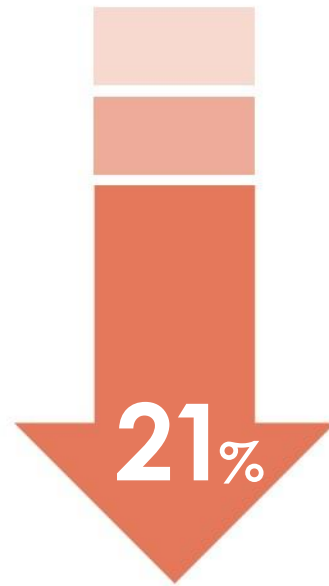


OUTCOMES

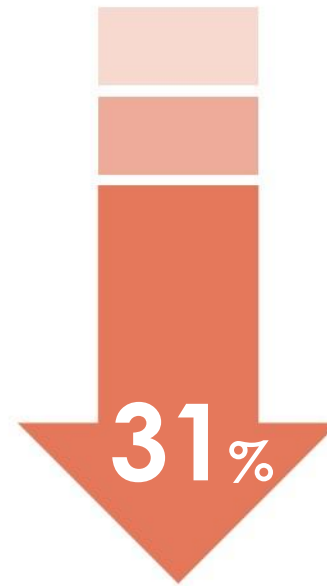
Western Australian Patient Blood Management Program



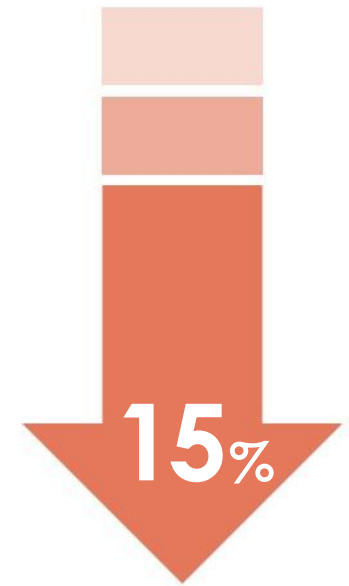
Mortality



Infection



AMI/Stroke



Length of stay

Adapted from: Leahy MF, Hofmann A, Towler S, Trentino KM, Burrows SA, et al. **Improved outcomes and reduced costs associated with a health-system-wide patient blood management program: a retrospective observational study in four major adult tertiary-care hospitals.** *Transfusion* 2017;57(6):1347-58. [PMID: 28150313]



Delaying the implementation of PBM translates into **increased morbidity and mortality**. There is no doubt that ***“our own blood is still the best thing to have in our veins”***

The urgent need to implement patient blood management: policy brief. | **W.H.O**

ISBN 978-92-4-003574-4 (





NETWORK

How can we assist you?



JWs operate a Hospital Liaison Committee to **minimize any legal or moral conflicts**. . . . Having their contact information ahead of time helps to **stabilize patients and maintain the focus on medical treatment** without delay.

Jong Hyun Lee & Wonsik Ahn | **KOREA**

Lee JH, Ahn W. **The stance of Jehovah's Witnesses on the use [of] blood and Hospital Liaison Committee**. *Korean J Anesthesiol* 2011;60(4):302. [PMID: 21602984]



HOSPITAL INFORMATION SERVICES

for Jehovah's Witnesses

HOSPITAL INFORMATION SERVICES

for Jehovah's Witnesses

WARWICK, NEW YORK, USA



6
CONTINENTS



86
OFFICES



2,000+
HOSPITAL LIAISON COMMITTEES (HLCs)



50,000+
VOLUNTEERS



100,000+
EXPERIENCED CLINICIANS



HOSPITAL LIAISON COMMITTEE

for Jehovah's Witnesses

2,000+



PRESENTATIONS



CONSULTATION





SUPPORT

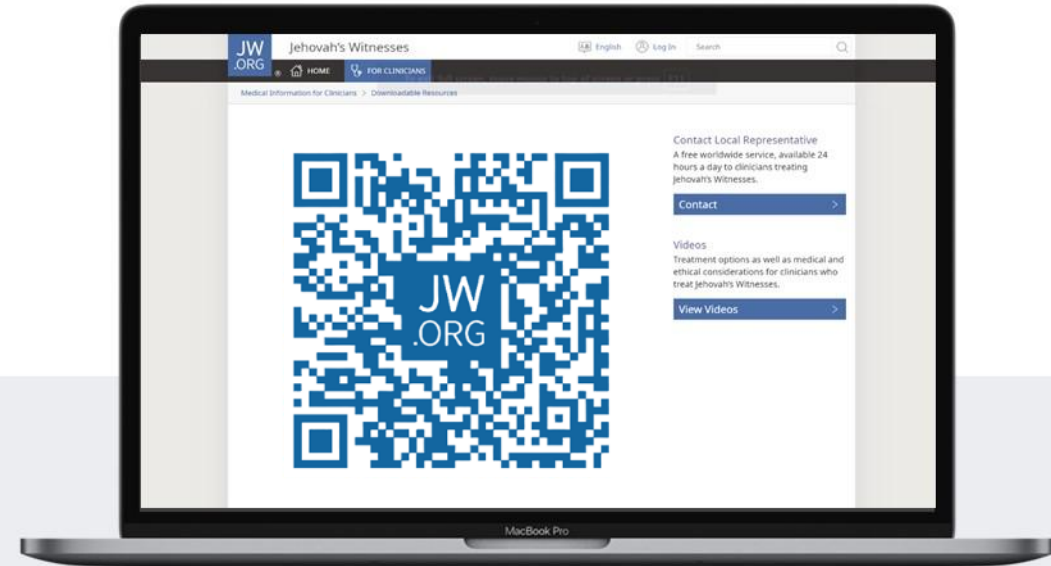


RESOURCES

WEBSITE



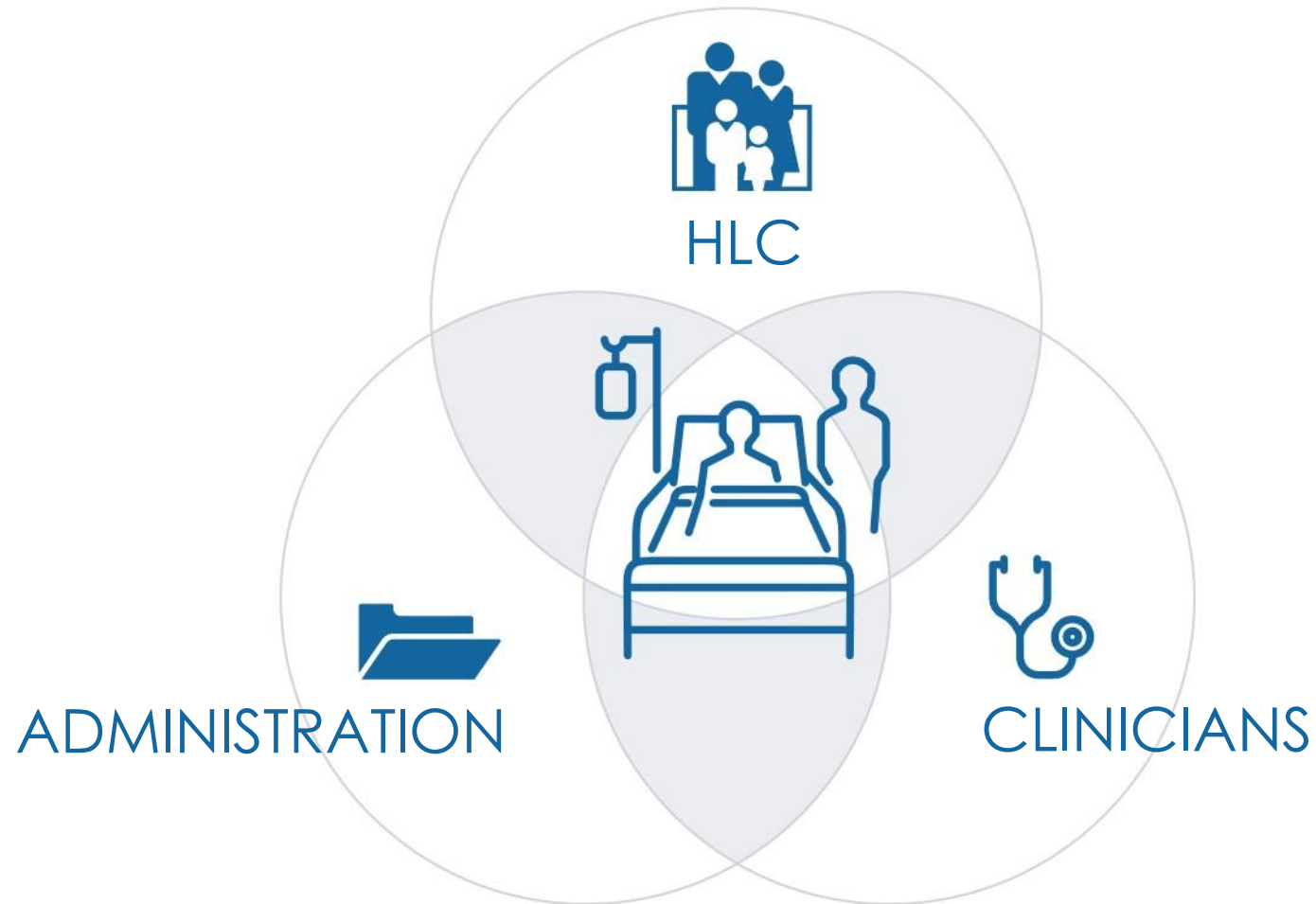
jw.org/**medical**



THOUSANDS OF CLINICAL REFERENCES



COLLABORATION





Thank you!





HLC
HLC WALES

PHONE: 07958502053

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jw.org/medical