

# **PATIENT INFORMATION**

# **Declining Blood or Blood Products**

Maternity Services



This leaflet has been produced to give you information about your rights to refuse a transfusion of blood or blood products as part of your maternity care.

## **INTRODUCTION**

We respect the right of all patients, and recognise the individual choices or religious beliefs that you may have.

## **CARE DURING PREGNANCY**

Your right to refuse a transfusion of blood or blood products will be respected. However, it is important that you tell us as soon as possible in early pregnancy so that we can plan your care and that this information can be recorded in your pregnancy records. You can do this in writing and it can be entered into your health records.

If you are one of Jehovah's Witnesses, you will probably be carrying an Advance Medical Directive/Release (sometimes known as a "no blood card"). Let your midwife or doctor see this to confirm that you have put your wishes in writing. It will be helpful if you have also completed a Health Care Advance Directive which gives more details of your views. Your local ministers can provide you with these documents.

During your pregnancy we will provide you with the opportunity to discuss your wishes in full with the maternity staff who may be involved in your care, namely the midwife, obstetrician and anaesthetist.

The maternity team will discuss with you the potential risks of pregnancy, birth and the postnatal period and of treating you without using blood products. This is important to make sure that you understand the risks and you will need to

decide if you are willing to take those risks. This information will be recorded in your records. An individual management plan will be developed to address any problems that may be identified.

In all situations your rights and wishes as an adult patient will be respected, for you to decide what may happen to you during the course of your care.

During your pregnancy, your place of birth will be discussed with you. You will be given information on Transfer of Maternity Care due to the risk associated with bleeding (leaflet reference 17/6) and the Maternity Team will discuss this with you.

### **Care during Labour and following the birth of your baby**

During labour and in any emergency situation, your wishes will continue to be respected. Should any intervention be required, your consent will be requested. This may be in writing, for example, should a caesarean section be needed. In signing your consent, you are only agreeing to the treatment you have agreed with your doctor. In an emergency situation we may consider utilising cell saver equipment in which your own blood may be processed and given back to you. It is important that we have the opportunity to discuss this with you during your pregnancy, to find out your wishes in this situation.

**For further information, please speak to your Midwife or Obstetrician.**

This patient information leaflet is intended to be used to support discussion during your clinical consultation. If there

is anything you do not understand or are unsure about, please ask the midwife or doctor at your appointment.

### **Information sources**

If you are one of Jehovah's Witnesses, contact your local minister for further information and support.

**Local Jehovah's Witness Patient Support Group**  
**01704 220615/07831 206096**

### **Contact details**

Antenatal Clinic Ormskirk DGH	01695 656949
Delivery Suite Ormskirk DGH	01695 656919

**During your contact with us, it is important that you are happy with your care and treatment. Please speak to a member of staff and/or the ward/department Sister/Charge Nurse if you have any questions or concerns.**

## **MATRON**

A Matron is also available during the hours of 9.00 to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday. During these periods, ward/department staff can contact Matron to arrange to meet with you. Out of hours, a Senior Midwife can be contacted via the ward/department to deal with any concerns you may have.

## **INFECTION CONTROL REQUEST**

Preventing infections is a crucial part of our patients' care. To ensure that our standards remain high our staff have regular infection prevention and control training and their practice is monitored in the workplace. We ask patients and visitors to assist us in preventing infections by cleaning their hands at regular intervals and informing staff of areas within the hospital that appear soiled.

As a patient there may be times that you are unsure whether a staff member has cleaned their hands; if in doubt please ask the staff member and they will be only too happy to put your mind at ease by cleaning their hands so that you can see them.

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

Please ensure you inform us early in pregnancy regarding your wishes.

## **ANY CONDITION SPECIFIC DANGER SIGNALS TO LOOK OUT FOR:**

## **CONTACT INFORMATION IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CONDITION**

Your own GP –  
Delivery Suite – 01695 656919

## **OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS/CONTACTS:**

NHS 111  
Stop Smoking Helpline (Sefton) - 0300 100 1000  
Stop Smoking Helpline (West Lancashire) - 0800 328 6297

**Please call 01704 704714 if you need  
this leaflet in an alternative format**

**Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust**

Ormskirk & District General Hospital  
Wigan Road, Ormskirk, L39 2AZ  
Tel: (01695) 577111

Southport & Formby District General Hospital  
Town Lane, Kew, Southport, PR8 6PN  
Tel: (01704) 547471

**FOR APPOINTMENTS**

Telephone (01695) 656680  
Email [soh-tr.appointments@nhs.net](mailto:soh-tr.appointments@nhs.net)

We would welcome your feedback about your experience  
at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust.  
Please access the Friends and Family Test at the following  
link:

[https://www.southportandormskirk.nhs.uk/patients-and-  
visitors/fft/](https://www.southportandormskirk.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/fft/)

**Thank you**

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