

Hemostatic Drug Therapy: Medications that assist with the clotting functions of blood.

Volume Expanders and Hemodilution: Enhances the circulation of patient's own blood via intravenous fluids.

Synthetic Erythropoietin: Stimulates bone marrow to produce enough red blood cells to obviate transfusion.

Harmonic Scalpel: A scalpel that employs vibration and friction to cut and cause blood clotting at virtually the same time.

Electro Cautery: Use of heat to stop vessels from bleeding.

How can I be sure I receive bloodless care?

Our clinical team has agreed to provide bloodless (transfusion-free) medicine and surgery to patients who request it. Coordinators provide patients with information and counseling on bloodless care and assist them in completing appropriate documents. Individuals are then identified as "bloodless patients" throughout their hospital stay, allowing physicians, nurses, and other members of the healthcare team to honor their request.



Treating you better...for life.

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Regional medical campus of Drexel University College of Medicine ■ Affiliate of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Bloodless Medicine and Surgery Program: Patient Blood Management



Patient Blood Management

Saint Peter's University Hospital is proud to offer our patients a progressive approach to blood management. Our use of safe and effective transfusion-free medical and surgical techniques reduces the many risks that are associated with blood transfusions.

Our goals are to improve patient outcomes, respect the needs of patients for whom blood transfusion is not an option, and educate other medical professionals in how patient blood management can improve medical and surgical outcomes for patients.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is patient blood management?

Patient blood management (PBM) is the use of scientifically based medical and surgical techniques aimed at conserving a patient's own blood and minimizing or avoiding the need for the transfusion of donor blood components.

What are the benefits of PBM?

There is strong scientific evidence that, overall, patients who avoid transfusions have fewer complications, faster recoveries and shorter hospital stays. Specific benefits of organized patient blood management include:

- Lower rates of the most serious post-operative complications, including heart attack, stroke, and infections
- Decreased risk of immunological complications and allergic reactions
- Less exposure to blood-borne viruses and infections
- No risk of receiving the wrong blood type

How does PBM work?

The practice of patient blood management involves a combination of medical and surgical techniques, as well as technology and behavioral strategies to decrease blood loss and enhance a patient's own blood supply.

I am having surgery. What can I expect?

At Saint Peter's University Hospital, patient blood management is a hospital-wide effort. A healthcare team of physicians, nurses, pathologists, pharmacists, dietitians and support staff works to assess and address each patient's blood management needs.

Before Surgery: Based on the results of a patient's blood test, doctors may recommend a regimen of medications and dietary supplements to ensure optimal levels of hemoglobin (an oxygen-carrying protein in red blood cells).

During Surgery: Doctors may use a variety of state-of-the-art technologies and techniques to minimize blood loss.

After Surgery: Blood loss will be minimized and blood production enhanced through medication and nutrition therapy as well as technology, including the use of post-operative blood salvage and hyperbaric oxygen therapy.



Bloodless Medicine and Surgery FAQs

Why bloodless surgery?

Many people object to receiving blood or blood products as part of their medical treatment. Some, such as Jehovah's Witnesses, object due to religious beliefs, while others do so as a result of healthcare concerns, knowledge of potential complications, or other personal convictions.

The benefits of bloodless surgery include decreased risk of infection and other complications.

How does bloodless medicine and surgery work?

Through our program for patient blood management, we offer many high-quality, safe, and effective alternatives to blood transfusions. Among the technologies that make bloodless surgery possible are:

Minimally Invasive Surgery and Meticulous Surgical Techniques: Surgical instruments and techniques specially designed to minimize blood loss by using the smallest or most efficient incisions.

Blood Salvage/Cell Saver: A device that recycles a patient's own blood that is lost during surgery, collects it, cleans it, and returns it to the patient.

Oximetry: Tracks oxygen levels during surgery.

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy: Distributes high concentrations of oxygen into the blood prior to surgery, helping patients better withstand surgical procedures.

Argon Beam Coagulator: Coagulates or clots blood during surgery to minimize blood loss.