



## Informed Consent for Blood Products Suggested Discussion Points with Patients

This document is to serve as a guide of items to discuss with your patient when obtaining informed consent for transfusion.

1. Need or potential need to transfuse
2. Benefits of the transfusion
  - Treatment – such as increase the oxygen carrying capacity or stop bleeding
  - Prevention – such as preoperatively for potential factor loss or platelet loss
3. Risks of transfusion
  - Infectious risk – See Infectious Disease Risk table  
<http://labs.unchealthcare.org/forms/disrisk.pdf>
  - Non infectious risks – most common are allergic reactions and febrile, non-hemolytic reaction
  - 3 most common **rare** events that are potentially fatal
    - Transfusion Related Acute Lung Injury (TRALI)
    - Hemolytic Transfusion Reaction
    - Bacterial Contamination
4. Alternative to transfusion
  - Autologous donation – requires at least 14 days See Autologous and Directed Donor Information <http://labs.unchealthcare.org/forms/directeddonor.pdf>
  - Erythropoietin
  - Blood substitutes are not available at UNC Hospitals
5. You have the right to refuse blood products
  - Must complete the Refusal to Consent to the Use of Blood or Blood Products
  - Consequences of refusing blood transfusion

Document the discussion and the consent on the Request and Consent for Operation or Procedure form. In the procedure space put the name of the procedure or, if this is for transfusion only, write transfusion.