

LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER POLICY

Subject: PAUL GANN BLOOD SAFETY ACT AND CONSENT FOR BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS		Original Issue Date: 9/26/01	Policy # 237
		Supersedes: 4/12/16	Effective Date: 3/27/20
Departments Consulted: Blood Bank Diagnostic Services Office of Risk Management Ethics Resource Committee	Reviewed & Approved by: Blood Utilization Committee Attending Staff Association Executive Committee Senior Executive Council	Approved by: (Signature on File) Chief Medical Officer	
		(Signature on File) Chief Executive Officer	

PURPOSE

To ensure that patients receiving blood and/or blood products while obtaining care at the LAC+USC Medical Center are appropriately informed and give consent to this treatment.

POLICY

Patients receiving blood or blood products while under care at LAC+USC Medical Center will be given required literature as stipulated in the Paul Gann Blood Safety Act. By signature, patients will verify their consent to receive these products either in a surgical or non-surgical environment.

PROCEDURE

- All patients receiving blood or blood products while under care at LAC+USC Medical Center must be given a copy of the State DHS pamphlet, *A Patient's Guide to Blood Transfusions* in advance where possible as required.
- Providers are responsible for informing the patient regarding the benefits, risks, or alternative therapies of receiving blood and blood products and obtaining an informed consent for transfusion.
- A patient receiving any blood products will verify, by signature, his/her consent to receive these products using the *Informed Consent to Blood Transfusion Form* (attached T-ORC001)
- In case of a medical emergency when a patient is unable to give consent and no surrogate is available, providers are to follow policy MC 205 Consent for Care, section D, Immediate Exception to Informed Consent.
- In the absence of a signed consent form, for patients who agree to receive any blood products, the responsible physician may instead document their informed consent discussion with the patient or their surrogate decision-maker in the patient health/medical record.
- Inpatients requiring multiple transfusions may consent to an entire course of therapy.

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- When multiple transfusions are anticipated for patients on an outpatient basis, the consent process is intended to cover the episode of care. Consent should be re-obtained and re-documented with each episode of care or at least on an annual basis. Examples of situations requiring this form would be those involving drugs, such as chemotherapy, where transfusions could be expected.
- A patient refusing to permit blood transfusions shall verify, by signature, his or her refusal or shall orally advise his or her physician regarding refusal. The physician is responsible for explaining the risks, benefits, and alternatives to patients and documenting the patient's decisions in the health/medical record. Refer to Medical Center Policy #205, Consent for Care. Refer also to forms 237-A (English) / 237-B (Spanish), Refusal for Blood Transfusion/Instructions for Blood Transfusion.

RESPONSIBILITY

Administration
Attending Staff
Nursing Staff
Physician Assistant Staff

PROCEDURE DOCUMENTATION

Attending Staff Manual
Nursing Services and Education Policy Manual
Departmental Policy and Procedure Manuals

REFERENCES

California Probate Code, Sections 4600 through 4743
California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 70707
DHS Policy #322, Patients' Bill of Rights
LAC+USC Medical Center Policies #205, 215, and 236
California Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, Consent Manual
The Joint Commission Standards (Ethics, Rights, and Responsibilities)

ATTACHMENT

- A. Informed Consent to Blood Transfusion Form (attached T-ORC001)
- B. Informed Consent to Blood Transfusion Form (attached **Spanish** T-ORC001)
- C. Refusal for Blood Transfusion/Special Instructions for Blood Transfusion (attached T-ORC002)
- D. Refusal for Blood Transfusion/Special Instructions for Blood Transfusion (attached **Spanish** T-ORC001)

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REVISION DATE

September 26, 2001; April 19, 2005; September 25, 2008, April 12, 2016; March 27, 2020