

Procedures for Dealing With Blood Transfusion Refusal

1. Response Principles

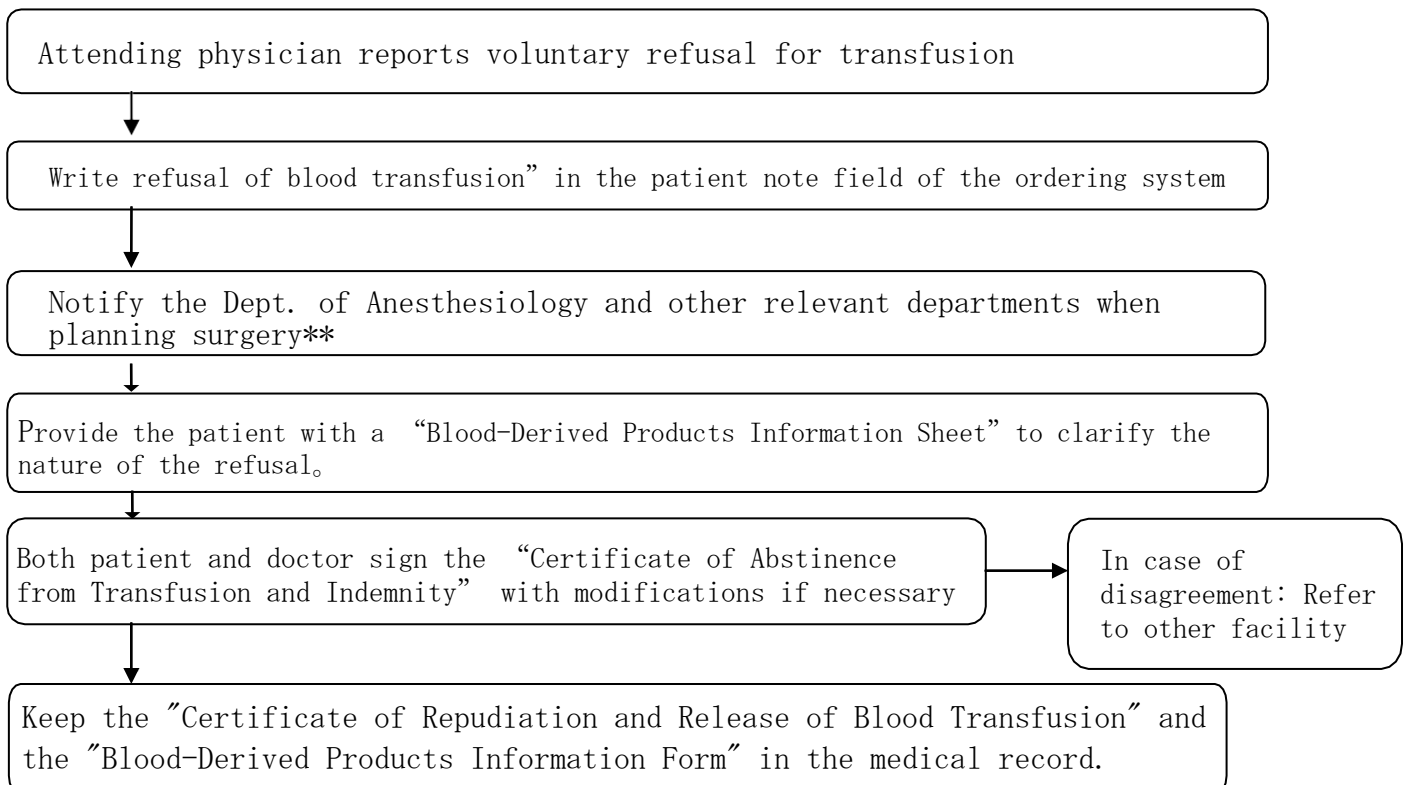
The University of Tsukuba has not established any guidelines and, in principle, the following measures confirmed by the University of Tsukuba Special Committee on Medical Ethics (Wednesday, October 14, 1992) are to be followed. In addition, when planning surgery, consult with the Department of Anesthesiology in advance. (Approved by the Risk Management Committee on July 19, 2005)

Regarding the treatment of patients who refuse blood transfusions (not only Jehovah's Witnesses, but all patients), in accordance with respect for the patient's freedom of religion and right to self-determination, the hospital collects an indemnity certificate and provides bloodless alternative treatment to the fullest extent possible. If there is a problem, the hospital director and the Special Committee on Medical Ethics* will be consulted.

2. Chief Judgement Points

The attending physician decides whether or not the alternative treatment without transfusion is possible at the hospital. In doing so, it is advisable to consult with other physicians in the hospital who are familiar with alternative treatments, or to obtain information from cooperative physicians at other facilities through citizen groups. If alternative treatment is not possible or difficult, or if the "Blood Transfusion Indemnity and Refusal Agreement" cannot be agreed upon, the patient should be referred to a cooperative doctor or facility before the patient's condition worsens.

3. Response Procedure



* The "University of Tsukuba Special Committee on Medical Ethics" is now the "University of Tsukuba Hospital Medical Ethics Committee".

** If necessary, relevant departments such as the Department of Anesthesiology should prepare their own "Certificate of Repudiation and Indemnity for Transfusion" and "Blood-Derived Products Description".