



Bloodless Medicine & Surgery

Patient Care. Teaching. Research.

Creighton
UNIVERSITY
Medical Center

<http://health.creighton.edu>

Bloodless Surgery



Defining our Program

What is a bloodless medicine and surgery program? It is a dedicated arrangement for providing quality medical and surgical care without the use of donor blood, utilizing blood conservation techniques to minimize a patient's blood loss before, during and after surgery.

What Does "Bloodless" Mean?

"Bloodless" means medical or surgical treatment without the use of banked (stored) allogenic (donor) blood or primary blood components (red cells, white cells, platelets or plasma). Blood loss often occurs during surgery. A Bloodless Program endeavors to minimize blood loss by utilizing special blood conservation methods.

An Alternative to Blood Transfusions

The community requested bloodless options for medical and surgical procedures. We listened. Individuals may request to be part of this organized program for either religious or personal

reasons. An impressive staff of physicians and providers are available to deliver a variety of non-blood alternatives, with the ultimate goal of enabling people to live healthier lives.

Respecting Your Decision

The bloodless medicine and surgery program is available to all patients who wish to avoid using donated blood. In providing you with high-quality care in this regard, we assure you that your personal wishes will be honored without question and that

you will be treated with respect and dignity prior to, during and after your treatment. We want you to have peace of mind.

The Team Approach

The program is not just a promise from one doctor not to use blood.

Our program offers a team approach that includes the program coordinator, medical director, administration, physicians, surgeons, nurses, anesthesiologists, technicians and ancillary personnel who cooperate in the care and treatment of the patient. We also have a medical steering committee to help guide this program. Since 1994, many procedures have been performed without blood transfusions here at Creighton University Medical Center. Our hospital is proud to be part of a forward-moving network of facilities and bloodless medicine and surgery programs around the world.

Creighton University Medical Center's full-time program coordinator and his assistant will help ensure the highest quality of medical care, act as a liaison between the patient, the patient's family, physicians and

staff and help meet special medical needs and requests. We understand the problems and concerns that patients may face when requesting non-blood medical treatment.

We will help you with referrals to participating doctors, insurance matters and lodging needs for you and your family, and, if necessary, with a hospital transfer to our facility. We can also provide you with a list of specialties available. Health care coordinators can be reached at (402) 449-5995 or (800) 425-6638 to answer your questions.



Advanced Techniques and Technology



Our skilled specialists use meticulous surgical techniques and procedures to minimize blood loss. The following are used in this program:

- **Argon Beam, CO₂ and YAG Laser**
Coagulates the patient's blood at the bleeding site during surgery.
- **Arterial Embolization**
A procedure using mechanical techniques or chemical agents to stop bleeding.
- **Cell Saver**
Continually recirculates the patient's own blood during the surgical procedure to minimize blood loss.
- **Endoscopy**
Use of a lighted flexible instrument for purposes of diagnosis, biopsy and treatment of esophageal and stomach problems.



- **Harmonic Scalpel**
Utilizes mechanical energy to coagulate and transect tissue.
- **Hemodilution**
Dilution of blood within a circuit that is constantly linked to the patient's circulatory system.
- **Hypotensive Anesthesia**
Medication used to lower blood pressure and reduce blood loss during surgery.
- **Minimally Invasive Surgery (Laparoscopic Surgery)**
Frequently used for gallbladder, hernia and appendectomy surgical procedures.
 - Eliminates large abdominal incision.
 - Generally allows for quicker recovery and return to daily routine.
- **Minimally Invasive Heart Surgery**
May eliminate the heart-lung machine and sternotomy, which could mean a smaller incision and quicker recovery.
- **Skin Monitor (Pulse Oximeter)**
Tracks oxygen saturation levels.
- **Synthetic Erythropoietin**
A man-made drug that stimulates the bone marrow to produce red blood cells, that allows the body to act as a blood bank.
- **Volume Expanders**
The use of intravenous (IV) fluids to enhance the patient's circulation, such as saline solution, Ringer's lactate, etc.

How to Participate

If you need a referral to a physician who is part of our program or have a question about insurance, a member of our staff will be happy to speak with you. Please call **(402) 449-5995** or **(800) 425-6638**.

Mission Statement

Creighton University Medical Center is committed to *respect* and provide the option of bloodless medicine and surgery to patients who desire non-blood medical treatment.

We will be *sensitive* to such requests and treat such patients with the utmost *dignity*.

We are committed to providing the highest quality of care to the community we serve through leadership, research and education.

Treatment of Minors

We respect the concerns of parents wishing to avoid transfusions of donor blood for their children. We will work with you to pursue options for treatment. However, please be aware that federal and state law may impose limitations on withholding blood transfusions for minors in a life-or-death situation.



