

For Patients Who Refuse Blood Transfusions

At Kano General Hospital, patients who refuse blood transfusions for religious reasons are managed in accordance with our policy of conditional avoidance of blood transfusion (*1), as described below.

1. We will make every reasonable effort to provide treatment without blood transfusion. However, if we determine that a transfusion may avert a life-threatening situation, we will administer a blood transfusion. In such circumstances, transfusion may be performed even if written consent for transfusion cannot be obtained.
2. We will not sign any document endorsing absolute refusal of blood transfusion (*2), including a Release from Liability or similar document presented by a Jehovah's Witness.
3. All surgical procedures and treatments that may involve bleeding may require blood transfusion. Even if consent for surgery or treatment cannot be obtained because of refusal of transfusion, the hospital will perform emergency surgery or treatment when necessary to save the patient's life.
4. This policy applies regardless of whether the patient is conscious or unconscious and regardless of whether the patient is an adult or a minor.
5. For patients capable of making their own decisions, or for their parents, guardians, or authorized representatives, we will fully explain this policy and make every effort to obtain their understanding. If agreement cannot be reached and there is sufficient time before treatment is required, we will recommend seeking treatment at another medical institution.

Hospital Director

***1 Conditional avoidance of blood transfusion**

A policy under which the patient's wishes are respected and every reasonable effort is made to avoid transfusion; however, a transfusion will be administered if there is no other means of saving the patient's life.

***2 Absolute refusal of blood transfusion**

A position under which the patient's wishes are respected and no transfusion is administered under any circumstances.