

1

Role of the Bloodless Medicine and Surgery Program

The BMSP was established in 2013 to coordinate high-quality care for patients who are of the Jehovah's Witness faith, as well as other patients who desire to avoid blood transfusions for personal reasons. The BMSP team provides education to both the MFSMC medical community and the patient community. We serve as navigators for patients seeking a medical institution that will respect their beliefs and provide compassionate care.

2

Core Function of the Bloodless Medicine and Surgery Program

The BMSP at MFSMC functions as the hub for a multidisciplinary team approach to providing transfusion-free care using an evidenced-based approach which relies on three corresponding aspects, which are the pillars of patient blood management: **(1)** optimizing hematopoiesis; **(2)** minimizing bleeding and blood loss; and **(3)** harnessing and optimizing physiological tolerance of anemia through the use of alternative treatment strategies.

3

Consultation

The BMSP consults with caregivers, during the perioperative period or during hospital stays for non-surgical patients, to provide strategies which can optimize the patient's recovery and promote a good clinical outcome. We coordinate pre-surgical anemia management to ensure optimization of the patient prior to surgery. The wishes of the patient are documented and communicated using a patient worksheet (attached) which serves as a consent form outlining which alternative blood management treatment modalities are acceptable to the patient.

4

Referral Center

The BMSP team refers patients seeking transfusion-free medical and surgical care to physician providers who are willing to treat these patients while respecting their wishes. We maintain a current list of these providers for when patients call seeking a referral. Additionally, we facilitate inter-hospital patient transfers when a patient desires to come to MFSMC to be under the care of the BMSP.

5

Provide a Positive Patient Experience

Our team follows each patient throughout their hospital stay. We advocate for our patients and provide recommendations for anemia management, when warranted. Understanding the stressful circumstances our patients endure, we seek to make their hospital experience as positive as possible by using daily rounds and discussions about their plan of care. We strive to address relevant issues facing the patient in a timely manner. When necessary, we address these issues with the medical team expeditiously.

CONTACT

Lombardi Cancer Center, Lower Level

Michael Hofmann • Program Coordinator
Richard Verstraete, RN • Nurse Coordinator
Office 202.444.1797
Pager 202.405.0353