

CHOICES

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The Institute for
Patient Blood Management &
Bloodless Medicine and Surgery

Englewood Hospital and Medical Center

Furthering Our Commitment to **BETTER PATIENT OUTCOMES**



The Institute for Patient Blood Management and Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center is celebrating its 15th anniversary with a new name, a new logo, and an expanded mission: to apply the safe and effective methods of transfusion-free medicine and surgery to all patients while upholding the unique commitment we have to patients for whom blood is not an option.

SINCE ITS FOUNDATION IN 1994, The Institute has cared for more than 45,000 patients from the United States and abroad. More than 200 physicians from every medical discipline practice bloodless techniques at The Institute, and procedures as complex as brain surgery and open-heart surgery are regularly performed at the facility without blood transfusions.

“We got started 15 years ago to provide services to an underserved patient population,” says Sherri Ozawa, RN, Clinical Director of The Institute. “In the intervening years, science has shown us that many of the techniques we’ve used in caring for one patient population can lead to better outcomes for all patients. Whenever we avoid an unnecessary blood transfusion for any patient, we know we’ve done something beneficial for that individual.”

An Exciting Year

In addition to its new name and logo, The Institute will mark its milestone anniversary by unveiling an expanded Web site and offering educational videos to help patients better understand bloodless medical management. In November, The Institute will host its first Medical Education Day for physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals.

“Blood transfusions are a huge issue in national health systems around the world,” says Ozawa. “We’re proud to be the leaders in patient blood management and bloodless medicine and surgery.”

For more information about The Institute, visit www.bloodlessmed.com.

“We are proud of the incredible progress we have made over the last 15 years in bloodless medicine and surgery and are excited that our new name reflects our commitment to apply this care to all our patients.”

—Douglas Duchak, President and CEO of Englewood Hospital and Medical Center

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Pregnancy can fill a new mother with feelings of anticipation and sometimes fears of the unknown. However, knowing who is going to deliver your baby should not be one of those fears.



UNFORTUNATELY, MOTHER-TO-BE MARSELA MITA of Lyndhurst, New Jersey, encountered this problem during her eighth month of pregnancy. Physicians with Marsela's gynecology group of five years told her they would no longer be able to deliver her baby, "just in case something happened."

Marsela, 28, is one of Jehovah's Witnesses, and her former physicians made a collective decision that even though her pregnancy had been uncomplicated, her delivery was too risky. Without much more of an explanation, a very-pregnant Marsela was told she would need to find another obstetrician.

Reaching Out for Help

Though she reached out to other physicians at her local hospital—and even to its Bloodless Center—Marsela could not find a physician willing to accept her as a patient that late in her pregnancy. One obstetrician after another rejected Marsela's plea for help.

"I told myself that if I went into labor I would just have to show up

at the hospital so the doctors couldn't turn me away," Marsela says. "Whoever was there would have to deliver my child."

But Marsela knew this wasn't the safest answer for her or for her unborn baby. According to the World Health Organization, excessive bleeding is the leading cause of maternal death in the world, and many doctors combat this problem with blood transfusions. However, Marsela's Bible-based belief system would not allow her to have a blood transfusion—even in the event of an emergency.

Getting Care

Marsela's husband, Vasio, remembered hearing about The Institute for Patient Blood Management and Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center—about 45 minutes away from their home—and the couple called right away.

"Immediately, The Institute put us in contact with Barbara Dill, MD, OB/GYN, who agreed to take me on as a patient," says Marsela, who delivered a healthy baby girl on February 6. "Dr. Dill realized I was a Witness and respected my beliefs, and I was able to relax, enjoy the rest of my pregnancy, and have a delivery that met my needs."



"It's always very challenging for patients to find an obstetrician who will take on their care at the end of a pregnancy—particularly when it's a bloodless medicine patient. However, Englewood Hospital and Medical Center is a multidisciplinary hospital with the tools necessary to help these patients, and we try to avoid bleeding problems before they happen. I told Marsela that I would respect her wishes."

—Barbara Dill, MD, OB/GYN
with Englewood Hospital

NEW CONCERN FOR UK BLOOD RECIPIENTS

According to a new report, more than 800 patients who received tainted blood transfusions in the United Kingdom are now at risk for Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD)—the human form of mad cow disease.

THESE AT-RISK PATIENTS, who are mainly hemophiliacs, received contaminated clotting factors, blood transfusions, or blood products from donors who later developed vCJD—a rare and potentially fatal brain disease. This report was prompted by the death of a blood recipient who was found to have traces of non-fatal vCJD in his spleen.

vCJD-tainted blood is just the latest problem blood recipients have faced in the past four decades. In the 1970s and early 1980s—before donated blood was routinely screened—thousands of hemophiliacs were infected with hepatitis C and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). An inquiry later revealed that a delay in the UK government's response to known information about the tainted blood led to 4,670 diagnoses of hepatitis C, with 1,243 of those blood recipients also infected with HIV.



IMPROVED TRANSFER CAPABILITIES AT ENGLEWOOD HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER

A friend or family member has an unexpected medical problem and an ambulance is called. Naturally—and legally—the ambulance rushes the patient to the Emergency Room (ER) of the nearest hospital. But what happens if that hospital isn't equipped to handle the special needs of bloodless medicine patients?

ON ARRIVAL AT A hospital ER, things happen quickly and patients can suddenly find that they are admitted into an institution that has limited understanding of the needs of someone for whom blood transfusion is not an option. While some caregivers on the hospital staff may be understanding of the patient's wishes, inexperienced individuals—or worse yet, uninformed doctors and hospital staff members—may try to intimidate or coerce the patient into accepting a transfusion.

Family and friends quickly gather to figure out what to do next.

Transfer of Care

Often, the next step is to locate an institution that has an organized Bloodless Program that can give advice, or even better, accept the patient for treatment via a transfer. This can be a complicated process, as there are a number of things that have to happen before a patient can safely be moved. Fortunately, Englewood Hospital has recently made some dramatic changes in its ability to make transfers happen more efficiently so patients can access outstanding care through The Institute for Patient Blood Management and Bloodless Medicine and Surgery.



“I would venture to say that there’s not another ER in the country that has a bloodless medicine training program on the same level that we do,” says David Istvan, MD, Chief of the ER at Englewood Hospital. “Our ER physicians here—as well as many of the other specialists on our staff—are probably better qualified to handle these specialized medical needs than any other place in the world, which provides a real incentive for patients to be transferred into our care.”

Efficient Transfers

While in the past, The Institute has had to rely on outside ambulance services or the services of the transferring hospital, it now has its own transport service. The hospital’s Specialty Care Transport Unit, an ambulance equipped to provide care equivalent to that typically found in an Intensive Care Unit, can pick up patients from virtually anywhere in the tri-state area and transfer them to Englewood Hospital. The availability of the Specialty Care Transport Unit increases The Institute’s ability to transfer patients without the long periods of delay that can occur while depending on an already busy or uncooperative institution to arrange transportation.

“By having an ambulance with this high level of technology on board, we’re able to transport patients out of other hospitals—even if they are in an Intensive Care Unit or Critical Care Unit—while maintaining that same level of care during transport,” says Harvey Weber, MAS, EMT-P, Director of the Mobile ICU and Emergency Medical Services. “Because the Specialty Care Transport Unit is staffed by a critical care nurse and a mobile intensive care paramedic, we’re able to transfer both stable and unstable patients without problems to get them to the unique care accessed through The Institute.”

Another important means of transfer for patients for whom even efficient ground transport would take too long is helicopter transport. This service can be lifesaving when patients are actively bleeding or are unstable in another way. The Institute is pleased to report that there is a suitable landing area that can accommodate air transportation directly across the street from Englewood Hospital’s ER.

Finally, there has been a subtle, yet important, change made in the process by which patients are accepted for transfer at Englewood Hospital. The Institute is proud to report that Englewood Hospital’s hospitalist physicians will now routinely accept Bloodless Program transfers into their care. This is an important innovation, because hospitalist physicians are physically on-site 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and can immediately respond to and communicate with a transferring hospital to ensure patients get their medical needs met as soon as they arrive at the hospital.

“From the minute a patient requiring bloodless medicine arrives at our facility, our staff assumes a whole new mindset for their treatment,” Dr. Istvan says. “This treatment doesn’t just involve taking less blood for tests or not providing donated blood. It’s a completely new philosophy for managing the patient’s care.”

MAKING TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS

If you or a loved one needs blood management services that aren’t available during an inpatient stay at the local hospital, it’s time to request a transfer to Englewood Hospital and Medical Center.

The staff at The Institute for Patient Blood Management and Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Englewood Hospital is happy to help coordinate care for patients for whom blood transfusions are not an option. With a transfer to Englewood Hospital, you can rest assured that the patient’s care will be managed by physicians and hospital staff who understand his or her specific medical needs.

The following steps will help you know what to do when you—whether you’re the patient or the healthcare agent making the request on behalf of a friend or family member—request a transfer from another hospital to Englewood Hospital.

1. Inform the doctor currently providing care for the patient that you are seeking a transfer to Englewood Hospital.
2. Investigate any insurance issues that may arise with the transfer. Some insurance companies require notification if a patient will be moved to a different hospital.
3. An on-call coordinator from The Institute is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to arrange for the transfer. Call (888) 766-2566 or (201) 894-3653 and you will be guided step-by-step through the transfer process.



“From the minute bloodless patients enter the hospital through a transfer, their charts are immediately flagged and they are provided with an ID bracelet that alerts physicians and staff to the patient’s medical needs.

This way, the staff is completely aware of the patient’s treatment preferences from the very beginning.”

—David Istvan, MD, Chief of the Emergency Department at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center

STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



At Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, advanced techniques for detecting heart disease are saving lives without surgery.

FOR PATIENTS OF ENGLEWOOD HOSPITAL, heart disease detection and prevention are reaching new levels of success. Courtesy of a series of diagnostic tests known as the Berkeley HeartLab, symptoms of heart disease and conditions that may speed its development are becoming easier to diagnose and treat.

The Berkeley HeartLab tests for proteins and particles in the blood that may encourage the buildup of plaque and the thickening of artery walls, which are both indicators of heart disease.

Using this series of tests, physicians can diagnose heart disease earlier, helping patients heal completely through lifestyle changes rather than major surgeries such as stent implantation or bypass procedures.

“The only true way to completely overcome heart disease is by changing a patient’s lifestyle, rather than relying solely on surgical procedures,” says Nate Lebowitz, MD, Chief of Nuclear Cardiology and Associate Chief of Cardiology at Englewood Hospital. “By detecting heart disease early with Berkeley HeartLab tests, we can begin aggressive exercise and nutrition regimens that attack the underlying causes of heart disease, reversing the disease without the need for major surgery.”

A graduate of Cornell University Medical College, Dr. Lebowitz has been an advocate of early detection and strong patient-physician relationships since the earliest days of his medical career. On staff at Englewood Hospital for 11 years, Dr. Lebowitz, a physician with a longstanding record of taking excellent care of Bloodless Program patients, feels the facility has proven to be the ideal location for him to satisfy both his clinical curiosity and strong commitment to quality care.

For more information about cardiac services available through physicians affiliated with The Institute, visit www.bloodlessmed.com.

MEET DR. SUN

A dedicated physician at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center who works closely with patients through The Institute for Patient Blood Management and Bloodless Medicine and Surgery, Sung Wook “David” Sun, MD, understands the needs of patients who choose to receive bloodless medicine.

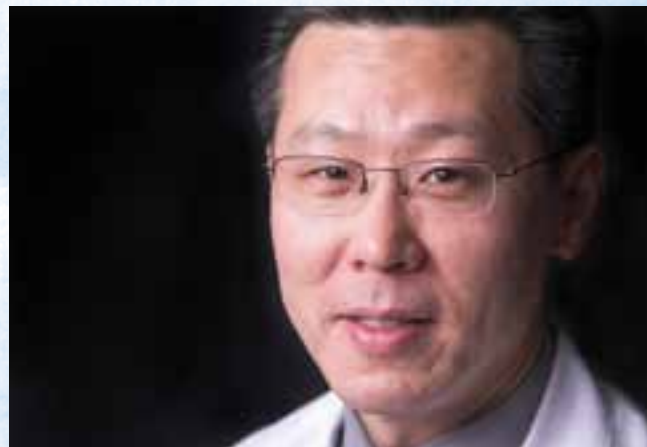
AFTER COMPLETING HIS UNIVERSITY education and medical training in Korea, Dr. Sun concentrated on primary care and practiced medicine in a rural community.

“One aspect of the medical field that I really enjoy is getting to know my patients on a personal level,” says Dr. Sun, who is a board-certified internist. “My goal as a physician is to provide the best medical care possible in a manner that makes patients feel comfortable and at ease.”

Patient-Focused Care

Dr. Sun came to the United States in 2002 to complete his residency and internship at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center and began working closely with The Institute to provide care to patients for whom blood transfusions aren’t an option.

“The Institute is a blessing for patients who need medical



attention from physicians willing to work within the patient’s religious and personal beliefs,” says Dr. Sun. “It’s a privilege to be able to work with one of the leading facilities in patient blood management and to offer our patients the latest technologies to minimize blood loss and maximize the oxygen-carrying capabilities of the blood.”

For information on scheduling an appointment with Dr. Sun, call (888) 766-2566.



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Englewood Hospital and Medical Center

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LETTERS

Thank you very much for your help and support in difficult moments of our life. The attention and love you showed us is highly appreciated. Thank you for taking the time to assist us and for explaining thoroughly the issues of blood. We just wanted to show our gratitude for the excellent work you all do there at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center.

Rick and Grissel Romo
San Pedro Sula, Honduras

We cannot adequately begin to express our thanks for all you have done for my wife, Carole. With her stomach bleeding, you coordinated the doctors' quick response to take care of the matter. Her hemoglobin went down to 2.7. It is now 13.3. Our total stay was 21 days and there was not a day that passed without contact from The Institute for encouragement and to answer any questions we had. You did an outstanding job. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

George and Carole Nakano
Poughquag, New York



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