

# CENTER FOR BLOODLESS MEDICINE AND SURGERY

A M E S A G E F O R O U R P A T I E N T S

## Dear Patient

It is a pleasure to provide you with the Winter Edition of The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery's Patient Newsletter. It is with great pride that I share with you many of the program's accomplishments since our last issue.

We are beginning a successful second year after experiencing tremendous growth and success. The center has achieved many of its goals including: developing an administrative policy; methods of patient identification; creating and implementing this newsletter and a similar publication for physicians; and creating a program brochure.

As we continue to expand the program, The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery has reached out to the community offering a number of seminars. We offered programs in different languages including sign language. All of these programs had an impressive turnout.

Although our program continues to expand, The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center will always have the same mission – to ensure that the dignity and legal rights of patients are respected, especially the right to informed consent.

If you would like to receive a copy of the brochure, please call me at 201-996-2963. As always, feel free to contact me for additional information or to express any questions and/or concerns.

Sincerely

Jo Valenti, R.N.  
Nurse Manager

The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery  
Hackensack University Medical Center

## Mission

The mission of The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center is to ensure that the dignity and legal rights of patients are respected, especially the right to informed consent.

## MEET OUR PHYSICIANS



Richard J. Davies, M.D., chairman of the Department of Surgery is also the medical director of The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at

Hackensack University Medical Center.

Born in Bath, England, Dr. Davies received his medical degree in 1973 from the University of London. Upon completing an internship and residency in England, Dr. Davies came to the United States in 1976. After a four year residency at Tulane University, he completed fellowships at Yale, Memorial Sloan Kettering, and Cornell.

Currently, Dr. Davies is a professor of surgery at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – New Jersey Medical School. Dr. Davies is also involved in numerous research studies, including research for the early detection of breast cancer.

Dr. Davies was extremely influential in the development of the transfusion-free program and his enthusiasm is a major reason the program has been such a success.

"We have now come to realize the health benefits of avoiding blood transfusion in surgical patients. This realization has improved the outcomes for many of them," said Dr. Davies.

## SUCCESS STORY

Mr. M., a 57 year old man from New York, learned he had a suspicious mass in his abdomen. The first surgeon who Mr. M. saw told him that he would not be able to perform the surgery without a blood transfusion. In expressing this issue to a friend, the friend referred him to Hackensack University Medical Center.

Although it is about an hour from his home, Mr. M. made a trip to the medical center and met with The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery's nurse manager. He immediately knew that the distance to the medical center was worth it. Mr. M. was scheduled for a consultation with one of the surgeons at Hackensack University Medical Center. Immediately,

he was assured that bloodless medicine was an option.

Mr. M. decided to have his transfusion-free surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center. He was very impressed with the documentation methods used to properly illustrate his transfusion-free status and also with the assistance he received in filling out standard consent forms.

Mr. M. had successful bloodless surgery at the medical center. When we asked him if we could share his story he replied, "Don't just share my story. Tell everyone that my family highly recommends The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center!"

## TECHNOLOGY

A common question regarding Bloodless Medicine and Surgery lies in the specific transfusion alternatives. Each issue will describe in detail various methods of transfusion-free surgery and medicine. We decided to start with the Cell Saver since this is the method that most people ask about.

Cell saving, autotransfusion, recycling blood, or blood salvage all have to do with conserving the patient's own blood during or after surgery. In simple terms this means the reinfusion of blood that is lost during or after surgery. For bloodless patients, the machinery is connected in a closed loop system that DOES NOT INVOLVE STORAGE. This method is called extracorporeal circuit. Before this cell saver technology was available, surgeons would pack the operative cavity with gauze sponges to soak up the blood that would have been interfering with the surgical process, providing a "dry field" in which to operate. At the end of the surgery, the saturated sponges were thrown out. The

cell saver allows surgeons to recycle the patient's blood instead of discarding it. For bloodless surgery, this is an invaluable tool.

Hackensack University Medical Center has remained on the forefront of healthcare by purchasing new cell saver machines. These machines have the capability to begin returning the patient's blood without any initial blood loss. Also, because of their less cumbersome design, the new cell saver is also used for salvaging blood post-operatively.

As technology continues to improve there are many new methods of transfusion-free surgery. Hackensack University Medical Center constantly strives to provide the highest quality of patient care.

### FACT

**Within the first seven months, The Center for Bloodless Medicine and Surgery saw 53 patients. To date the program has seen 199 patients!**

## About Hackensack University Medical Center

Hackensack University Medical Center, a teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-New Jersey Medical School and a member of the University Health System of New Jersey, is the largest provider of inpatient and outpatient services in the state of New Jersey. The medical center is the only hospital in New Jersey to be nationally ranked by U.S. News and World Report's "America's Best Hospitals" in six specialties including: cardiology; ear, nose, and throat; gastroenterology; geriatrics; orthopedics; and rheumatology. The medical center is also the first hospital in New Jersey to receive the Magnet Award for nursing excellence from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

## Be Sure to Always Carry Your Medical Directive Card!



## Let Us Hear From You

### Your thoughts count...

If there are any topics that you would like to see featured in the next issue, please complete the following and return it to Jo Valenti, R.N., c/o Operating Room Services, Hackensack University Medical Center, 30 Prospect Avenue, Hackensack, NJ 07601.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: \_\_\_\_\_

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