



Therapeutic Phlebotomy Department

Time Square, 660 SW 39th Street, Suite 245, Renton, WA 98057

(800) 266-4033 or (425) 453-5098 Fax (425) 251-1977

Email: therapeuticphlebotomy@bloodworksnw.org

Informed Consent for Therapeutic Phlebotomy for Increased Red Cell Production Conditions

Procedure: Therapeutic Phlebotomy consists of inserting a needle through the skin into a vein, and removing up to one fifth (about two cups) of the blood from your body. Your body will replace the fluid portion of the blood in hours and replace the red blood cells over several days.

Possible benefits: You have been diagnosed with a condition that causes you to overproduce red blood cells.

When red blood cells take up more than half of the blood volume, it takes more effort for your heart to move the blood. When the blood cells form more than two thirds of the blood (hematocrit >65%) some persons experience symptoms of dizziness or memory loss, because of decreased oxygen reaching the tissues because the blood is moving slowly. These symptoms generally improve with reduced proportion of red blood cells in circulation after phlebotomy.

Possible risks: It is unlikely that removing 500 ml (about two cups) of blood from your body will cause serious side effects, however, the reduction in the amount of circulating blood may lower your blood pressure for a short time reducing oxygen to your upper body including your brain and causing faintness. This most often happens when you haven't been drinking enough fluid prior to the procedure. When faintness occurs it can usually be managed by lowering your head by lying down and elevating your legs. Drinking fluids can help replace that volume. Occasionally, if the drop in blood pressure is severe, giving fluid through the vein may be needed and may require ambulance transfer to an emergency room, or rarely hospitalization. If decreased blood flow to the brain occurs and is not promptly treated, it could cause a seizure or loss of consciousness. Persons with medical conditions such as heart or lung disease may be more sensitive to the loss of blood and could trigger an event related to these diseases with any of the possible risks of these diseases including death. If you have one of these diseases be sure to discuss with your health care provider what increased risks you might have from Therapeutic Phlebotomy and discuss whether the possible benefits are worth the risks.

The other common risk from phlebotomy is incomplete clotting when the needle is removed from the vein causing blood to leak into the skin (bruise) or cause external bleeding. These usually can be controlled by pressure to the site where the needle was inserted and usually heal without any lasting effect.

Uncommon risks include infection from bacteria or viruses that remain even after the disinfection of the skin and being carried by the needle into the blood stream causing a severe infection. Another uncommon risk is irritation or damage to the nerve which is next to the blood vessel where the needle is inserted which may cause temporary or permanent numbness, tingling, burning or pain.



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Patient's Statement: I have read this information and my questions have been answered. I agree to have my blood drawn as a treatment for my medical condition of increased red cell production.

I am the patient and I am at least 18 years of age

 Patient's Signature

 Date

 Patient's Printed Name

The patient is under 18 years of age

I am legally authorized to consent to medical procedures on behalf of:

 Name of Patient

 Patient's Printed Name

 Signature of Parent or Guardian

 Date

 Relationship to patient