

## Glossary of Alternatives to Blood Transfusion (“Minor Fractions”)

### Alternatives issued by Pharmacy Services:

- **Albumin**

Albumin is a protein produced in the liver and distributed throughout the body via the circulatory system. This protein is fractionated from plasma of healthy human donors and prepared for treatment to restore blood volume when needed. It is often used to treat shock as a volume expander in emergent situations.

- **Erythropoietin (EPO, Epoetin alfa, Procrit)** products sometimes contain a small amount of albumin for stabilization. Erythropoietin is a hormone that promotes red blood cell production in the bone marrow. This medication is used to treat anemia and may take 2-4 weeks to show effectiveness.

**NOTE: Aranesp (darbepoetin) and Retacrit are versions that do not contain albumin**

- **Immune Globulins**

Immune globulins are various proteins that act as antibodies to infection. These antibodies respond to bacteria, viruses and/or other foreign substances in the body. Immune globulins are fractionated from plasma and pass freely between mother and fetus. These antibodies are rarely used for healthy patients, except in the case of certain vaccines. Most are familiar with RhoGAM, given to Rh negative mothers whose blood is incompatible with their baby's. Immune globulin preparations are also used to treat conditions such as Cytomegalovirus infection (CMV), Kawasaki disease, Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), and certain animal bites.

- **Clotting Factors (Humate-P, K-Centra, Thrombate)**

These products are proteins that control bleeding. They are fractionated from plasma and often suspended in a solution for treatment as needed. Many different clotting factors work together in a series of biochemical reactions to stop bleeding.

### Alternatives available during surgery:

- **Intra-operative blood salvage (Cell Saver) – Continuous Closed Circuit Loop ONLY**

Frequently used during cardiothoracic, vascular, and spinal surgery, the Cell Saver or Autologous Blood Salvage procedure recovers blood “lost” during surgery, allowing for its immediate re-infusion to the patient, via a continuous circuit and without interruption. If agreeable with this procedure, advise your surgeon that you want this device prepared and ready to start when appropriate during surgery.

- **Surgical Sealants (Tissue Adhesives, Fibrin Glue, Hemostatic Agents)**

These products are proteins fractionated from plasma and usually used during surgery to stop surgical site bleeding. If agreeable to these alternatives, advise your surgeon that you want this available and implemented during surgery.