CONSENT FOR TRANSFUSION

Doctor ______________________________ has advised me that due to my/the patient’s medical condition, the chances for improvement or recovery will be significantly helped by receiving blood products: such as packed red blood cells, plasma, or platelets.

The doctor has explained benefits that are expected for myself/the patient being transfused and as well the risk(s). I understand that:

- Units of packed red blood cells and plasma are purchased from the American Red Cross and have already been tested and labeled.
- Platelets are collected, on Guam, from carefully screened, usually repeat, donors previously tested for infectious diseases.
- Testing of platelet units for infectious diseases, such as Hepatitis and AIDS, is performed off-island and is usually not complete before the transfusion is needed.
- The doctor will be informed of the platelet testing status and will sign an Emergency Release form indicating the critical need for platelet transfusion.
- There are rare potentially fatal reactions/consequences, and more common, usually mild reactions, associated with transfusions, even when blood products are prepared and tested using up to date methods and technology.

Transfusion Benefits

- Red blood cells carry oxygen to enable organs such as the heart, brain, and kidneys to function.
- Platelets and plasma may prevent or control life threatening bleeding.

Estimated risks per unit transfused (based on published information)

- Acute hemolytic reaction – 1 in 40,000 red blood cells (fatal in 1 per 100,000)
- Delayed hemolytic reaction – very uncommon and not usually serious
- Anaphylactic reactions – 1 in 20,000 (may be fatal)
- Transfusion related acute lung injury – 1 in 1,000 transfusions (fatal 1 in 10,000)
- Viral Infection risks from transfusion of tested blood products (risks greater with untested platelets)
  - HIV (1 in 2,135,000)
  - Hepatitis C (1 in 2,000,000)
  - Hepatitis B (1 in 205,000)
  - West Nile Virus (WNV) (1 in 350,000)
- Bacterial Infections from contaminated platelets – 1 in 4,000 (may be fatal)
- Non-hemolytic febrile and allergic reactions – 1 in 25 (not usually serious)
- Graft versus host disease – rare and less than 0.15% (in immunocompromised person such as those with AIDS and usually fatal)
- Immune suppression – evidence exists but incidence and severity debated
- Volume overload – too much fluid may compromise heart/lung function

☐ I consent to transfusion of blood products for myself/the patient. I have had an opportunity to ask questions regarding transfusion of blood products and understand I may ask questions at any given time even during the transfusion. I understand that I can choose to cancel this consent or stop the transfusion at any time. Unless canceled, this consent expires upon discharge.

☐ I refuse the transfusion of blood products and understand that this is against medical advice.

Signature of Patient ______________________________ Date _______________ Time _______________

Witness ______________________________ Date _______________ Time _______________

Person giving consent (if not patient) ______________________________ Relationship to patient ______________________________ Date _______________ Time _______________