



Will my health insurance cover blood conservation techniques?

Blood conservation methods are an accepted form of healthcare today, and are normally covered by insurance. However, insurance company coverage varies. We encourage you to contact your individual insurance provider with specific billing questions. We also have health insurance specialists at Beaufort Memorial who can assist you with any insurance needs.

Your Blood Conservation Coordinator:

Beaufort Memorial Hospital has a dedicated Blood Conservation Coordinator. The coordinator is a Registered Nurse who has had special training in blood conservation techniques. The coordinator will work closely with you and your family before and during your hospitalization. Feel free to contact the Coordinator anytime for more information.

You can reach the Blood Conservation Office at (843) 522-5293.



Beaufort Memorial
HOSPITAL

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Blood Conservation Hospital

A new approach to patient care.



Beaufort Memorial
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Beaufort Memorial's Blood Conservation Program



Why did Beaufort Memorial decide to become a Blood Conservation Hospital?

Blood transfusions have been an accepted medical practice for many years. However, today, healthcare professionals are learning that there can be risks that go along with it. As a blood conservation hospital, other methods may be used to reduce your chances of having to receive blood. Using blood conservation methods, hospitals are finding that patients may recover faster, heal more quickly, and go home sooner than those who receive blood transfusions.

Beaufort Memorial Hospital has a dedicated blood conservation program coordinator who will work closely with you, members of your family, and your doctors to answer any questions you might have about blood conservation. Throughout your stay, we will ensure you receive the best care possible, while respecting your personal and/or religious wishes.

Patient safety is our goal:

BMH's Blood Conservation Program complements our progressive approach to providing less invasive surgical and medical services. The ultimate goal is high quality patient care and safer outcomes.

Blood conservation methods:

There are many methods used in Blood Conservation. Depending on your surgery or medical condition some of these techniques may or may not be right for you. We encourage you to ask your doctor about blood conservation. We want you to be at your best and ready for your surgery.

Before your surgery:

These treatments are done weeks before your surgery.

Talk with your doctor and ask if you qualify for any of these treatments.

- **Synthetic Erythropoietin** – This is a medicine prescribed by your doctor to help your body make more of your own red blood cells. You become your own blood bank. If you qualify, your doctor can prescribe injections once a week 3 – 4 weeks before your scheduled surgery. This treatment will be given to you at our Infusion Center.
- **Iron and Supplements** – Iron supplements can be used to boost your system before your elective surgery. Your doctor may prescribe iron tablets, or IV Iron. IV Iron will be given to you at our Infusion Center. Other supplements may include Vitamin C, Folic Acid or an injection of Vitamin B-12. Please discuss these treatments with your doctor in advance.

During your Surgery:

These treatments may be done during your surgery.

Talk with your surgeon and ask if these blood saving treatments are right for you.

- **Cell Saver** – A system that collects and filters your own blood lost during surgery. Then returns your own filtered blood back to you after your surgery. Your blood does not go to the blood bank for storage and remains in a closed system.
- **Platelet Rich Plasma** – A substance made from your own blood during surgery and applied to your surgical site. This helps to lessen blood loss during surgery and helps your bones and tissue heal faster.
- **Surgical Devices** – Special scalpels and other instruments your surgeon may use to lessen blood loss during surgery.
- **ANH (Acute Normovolemic Hemodilution)** – On the day of your surgery one to three units of your blood are taken from you and replaced with IV fluids. Your blood is then given back to you during or after your surgery to replace any blood lost during the operation. Your blood does not go to the Blood Bank for storage.

What about donating my own blood ahead of time?

Donating your own blood ahead of time to get back after your surgery is called autologous blood donation. Scientists have now found that this method is not as effective as once thought. Stored blood, even your own blood, loses its ability to carry oxygen to your body each day it stays in the blood bank. Blood conservation methods, have proven to be more effective.

Respect of your beliefs, rights and wishes:

If you are a Jehovah Witness or for any reason wish to be a **NO BLOOD** patient please notify your doctor in the office, contact the BMH Blood Conservation Coordinator at (843) 522-5293, and tell the hospital immediately at registration. **A NO BLOOD PATIENT MEANS THAT YOU WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY BLOOD OR BLOOD PRODUCTS, EVEN IN A LIFE THREATENING SITUATION.** As a **NO BLOOD** patient, a bracelet will be placed on your wrist when you are admitted to the hospital. This will let all your health care workers know you do not wish to receive blood even if life threatening. Please remember to give a copy of your Advance Directive to your doctor in the office and the hospital on admission. You will be followed closely, by your Blood Conservation Coordinator.

Minors and Blood Conservation:

State and federal law may impose limitations on the ability to withhold or withdraw blood transfusions or blood therapy from minors, particularly in life-threatening situations. If you are considering blood conservation care for a minor, please consult your physician before treatment.

