



About St. Christopher's Hospital For Children

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children is a 170-bed pediatric hospital located at Erie Avenue at Front Street in Philadelphia, PA that has an academic affiliation with Drexel University College of Medicine. The hospital provides a wide range of pediatric medical and surgical specialties. With a medical staff of more than 270 pediatric specialists, St. Christopher's is a Level I Pediatric Trauma Center and provides programs such as kidney transplantation, cancer treatment, burn and wound care, minimally invasive surgery, and open heart surgery for the children of the greater Philadelphia area and from around the world. The hospital is fully accredited by the Joint Commission, the nation's oldest and largest hospital accreditation agency.

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children is part of Tenet Healthcare Corporation's hospitals in the Philadelphia market. To learn more about St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, visit www.stchristophershospital.com.



Erie Avenue at Front Street
Philadelphia, PA 19134
www.stchristophershospital.com
(215) 427-5000



The Advanced Blood Conservation Program

at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children

In a PERFECT WORLD every child is HEALTHY. We're working for a perfect world.



Advanced Blood Conservation Staff

We have a medical director, program director and multiple coordinators involved in running the program. Our staff's focus is to help educate patients and the general public concerning medically acceptable alternatives to blood transfusions. Our team has extensive experience in handling transfusion-related issues for children.

Our surgeons, anesthesiologists, hematologists and nurses are all integral parts of our Advanced Blood Conservation Program.

In addition, we have a multidisciplinary medical team that participates in a steering committee, which meets regularly to discuss the program.

For more information, assistance with understanding alternatives to transfusions, or for a physician referral, please speak to one of our program coordinators by calling:

**The Advanced Blood Conservation Program
at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children**

Erie Avenue at Front Street
Philadelphia, PA 19134
215-427-6505 or 800-532-1101

What is Blood Conservation?

It is a safe and effective medical or surgical practice of care that withholds the use of stored or donor provided blood and primary blood components.

It is a planned and multidisciplinary approach that uses such tools as medications, technology and surgical techniques to treat our young patients, who are at the heart of everything we do.

St. Christopher's Advanced Blood Conservation Program

Since 1875, families have turned to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children for excellent care. The Advanced Blood Conservation Program at St. Christopher's was established to meet the needs of families who desire excellence in medical care for their children while avoiding exposure to donated blood or primary blood components.

Why Blood Conservation?

A blood conservation approach is preferred by individuals who have strong religious convictions against receiving blood transfusions. Others may have a personal preference against receiving donor blood due to the risk of disease transmission.

Blood Conservation techniques may be performed before, during and after medical or surgical treatment and may include a combination of diet, medication, surgical techniques and other strategies.

Some of the common goals are to:

- Boost red blood cell count prior to surgery
- Monitor and optimize oxygen delivery during surgery
- Avoid blood loss during surgery
- Collect and reuse a patient's own blood during surgery

Our Blood Conservation Strategies

Our Advanced Blood Conservation Program endeavors to minimize blood loss by utilizing special blood conservation methods. St. Christopher's approach involves blood conservation devices, pharmaceuticals, meticulous surgical techniques and a medical staff committed to providing quality care for every child.

Currently available procedures and technologies include:

- **Minimally Invasive Surgery** that helps eliminate large incisions to reduce blood loss, pain, recovery time and surgical scarring
- **Cell Saver** to collect and return the patient's own blood during surgery.
- **Harmonic Scalpel** to simultaneously cut tissue and seal blood vessels using ultrasound technology
- **Argon Beam Coagulator** to reduce blood loss and operating time by efficiently coagulating blood vessels
- **Electrocautery** to minimize blood loss during surgery through cauterization
- **Minimal Blood Sampling and Testing** to conserve the patient's own blood by reducing the amount and frequency of blood testing
- **Transcutaneous Oxygen Monitoring** to track oxygen levels without drawing blood
- **Synthetic Erythropoietin** to produce red blood cells by stimulating bone marrow