CONVALESCENT PLASMA RESEARCH & PROTOCOLS

WHAT IS CONVALESCENT PLASMA?

Convalescent Plasma is an investigative treatment facilitated by the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) for use in patients whose infections are serious or immediately life-threatening. Plasma donated by a qualified candidate who has fully recovered from COVID-19 is transfused to a COVID-19 patient. The hope is that the antibodies in the donated plasma can help attack the virus and boost the patient’s own immune system.

WHAT IS NCH DOING?

NCH has enrolled a total of ten patients into this program and our Community Blood Center is sourcing our own convalescent plasma. Since starting this program, we had the 400th patient in the nation. Today, our most recent patient was around patient 6,000. As you can see, this is becoming a very big study and widely adopted process.

The following is a list of ongoing active research regarding COVID-19 at NCH Healthcare System.

**NCH COVID-19 Database:** This is an 1,100-item database per patient. This data will help the healthcare providers and scientists as well as our community leaders develop care protocols. It includes treatment algorithms, treatment responses, and helps determine what the next phase of this virus will look like.

**Hydroxychloroquine/Azithromycin Randomized Trial:** This pending randomized controlled trial started in response to the FDAs interim recommendations with COVID-19 positive patients. This trial will help identify the effectiveness of this treatment.

**US Expanded Access Program for Convalescent Plasma for the Treatment of Patients with COVID-19:** The purpose of this study is to expand convalescent plasma use. Simply put, greater access to this treatment and its potential in treating COVID-19 patients.
Mayo Clinic invited NCH to participate in this Institute Review Board (IRB) approved study. Because of our relationship with the Mayo Clinic Care Network (MCCN) NCH had patient number 400, which now has over 6,000 patients, showing our early partnership in this trial. Mayo Clinic has opened up this study to all hospitals who wish to join who have plasma collection or use plasma. Dr. David Lindner leads this study and collects and evaluates the data. This study will last as long as COVID continues or data implies it is not helpful.

**Gilead: Expanded Access & Compassionate Treatment Protocols:** NCH has already participated in the compassionate use protocol to identify the effectiveness of Remdesivir and now we are working to identify the effectiveness of Remdesivir on the clinical outcomes of COVID-19 positive patients.

**BioFIRE – Procalcitonin Rapid Testing Protocol:** BioFIRE is our in-house testing platform and we are partnering with one of our rapid testing partners in identifying procalcitonin and its use in identifying COVID-19 positive patients.

**Publication: “Are Certain Drugs Associated with Enhanced Mortality in COVID-19”:** This is an international study with the journal of medicine helping to identify medications and their effect on patient mortality related to COVID-19 positive patients.

**SUMMARY:**

NCH is involved in research and publishing and there are multiple studies which have been instituted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our academic team has risen to the challenge with significant scholarly research output. NCH Healthcare System is leading the region with this research and protocols.