


WATCHTOWER
Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.

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November 8, 2012

TO ALL HOSPITAL LIAISON COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Re: Judicious use of information from the Internet

Dear Brothers:

We warmly commend you for faithfully shouldering your responsibilities as Hospital Liaison Committee (HLC) members and making yourselves available at all times, day and night, to support our brothers in their determination to abstain from blood. (Prov. 17:17) The purpose of this letter is to provide some reminders to remain cautious and balanced regarding commercial entities or other endeavors in connection with the blood issue.

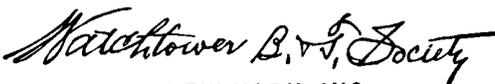
There is a need to exercise caution regarding Web sites containing information or videos about transfusion risks or strategies to avoid blood transfusion that are not produced or organized under the oversight and direction of “the faithful and discreet slave.” (Matt. 24:45-47) While some sites may contain interesting statistics or other information, the creators have their own pursuits, aims, and intentions. Forwarding links to such sites to others may give the appearance that you endorse the content. Although information on a Web site may support the efficacy of strategies to avoid blood transfusion, it may also venture into matters of government health policy, perhaps suggesting or even calling for restricting the medical use of blood transfusion or in subtle ways attacking practitioners that advocate the use of blood transfusion in medical therapy. HLC members should beware of becoming involved in such matters. (John 17:14, 16) It may be that we could benefit from government policies that might be favorable to our stand on blood, but we must avoid giving any impression that we support or endorse entities that pursue such activity.

If you are invited to do so, it would be appropriate to make a presentation to governmental health ministries and to provide medical information approved by the branch office on our position. Before using any information from Web sites in your HLC assignment, please first confirm its suitability with the branch office. In view of the foregoing, it would not be appropriate to call attention to unapproved sources in HLC presentations or other communication with doctors and hospitals, nor should links to such sources be forwarded to fellow Witnesses. We do not want our Bible-based reason for abstaining from blood to become blurred in the minds of the medical community or our brothers.—Acts 15:28, 29.

We are pleased to continue to assist you in your efforts to establish contacts with cooperative doctors and to make presentations to hospital staff. Moreover, the faithful and discreet slave provides what is necessary for our brothers to maintain a clean conscience before God and to maintain their integrity when questions regarding the use of blood arise. The HLC arrangement is one way that our loving heavenly Father, Jehovah, supports “the sheep of his pasturage.”—Ps. 100:3.

This letter has been added to the list of permanent policy letters. You should update the HLC *Index to Letters* (hlc-4) at this time. We assure you of our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,


OF NEW YORK, INC.

cc: Traveling overseers

11/8/12-E Us