



# PUBLIC NOTICE

**West Virginia University Hospitals' Jon Michael Moore Trauma Center is set to embark on a clinical study in severely injured people – A trial to evaluate the possible benefit of a blood substitute fluid instead of salt water**



PolyHeme® is an oxygen-carrying blood substitute. In a nationwide study currently involving 25 trauma centers, PolyHeme® will be compared to standard salt water for replacement of blood loss in critically injured patients in shock. This study is aimed at evaluating whether PolyHeme® changes patient survival as compared to salt water. The study begins in the field at the accident site by the paramedics and all patients are carefully evaluated throughout the study period of three months.

Trauma is the leading cause of death among Americans under the age of 45, and in severe trauma with shock, one out of five patients currently die.

Blood is not available in ground ambulances. However, PolyHeme®, a blood substitute, can be and will be studied.

Because critically injured patients in shock cannot give informed consent, federal regulations (Exception to Informed Consent 21 CFR 50.24) allow consent to be given by the patient or family member afterwards in emergency situations like this. One of the requirements of these regulations is that we consult with the communities in which the research will be conducted, and disclose the research plan and the risks and expected benefits.

The study will be conducted in Monongalia, Harrison and Marion counties and involves severely injured patients who are in shock and will be transported to the Jon Michael Moore Trauma Center of West Virginia University Hospitals, Morgantown.

PolyHeme® is manufactured by Northfield Laboratories Inc., of Evanston, Illinois.  
Website: <http://www.northfieldlabs.com/PolyHeme.html>

For additional information, questions, or concerns, or to learn how you may elect to not participate in this study, please contact Elizabeth Wooster, RN, at 304-598-4659



**West Virginia University Hospitals**  
**JON MICHAEL MOORE TRAUMA CENTER**