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WE'RE ALWAYS TELLING PEOPLE HOW WE FEEL ABOUT THE BLOODLESS INSTITUTE AT ENGLEWOOD HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER. WHEN THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED, IT WAS SO COMFORTING TO KNOW WE HAD A WHOLE TEAM OF PHYSICIANS TRAINED TO CARE FOR THOSE WHO CHOOSE NOT TO HAVE BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS. WE ALSO KNOW THEY'RE GOOD AT WHAT THEY DO—THEY CAN'T MAKE MISTAKES OR BE SLOPPY BECAUSE TRANSFUSIONS AREN'T AN OPTION.

Amy Vandermejde

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Jeff and Amy Vandermejde

Reaching for BETTER CARE

Jeff and Amy Vandermejde chose to go the extra mile—literally—to The Institute for Patient Blood Management and Bloodless Medicine and Surgery at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center when Jeff needed care for his compound fracture.



Jen Fei Lee, MD

In August 2015, Jeff was helping his son build a deck when he fell off the back of his truck and crushed his elbow. Though Englewood Hospital was more than 45 minutes from their Newfoundland, New Jersey home, the couple made the decision to drive themselves to Englewood rather than allowing an ambulance to take them to a closer facility.

“You could see bones poking out of Jeff’s arm,” Amy says. “We knew it was a compound fracture, but we had no idea about the recovery and how much use he would have of his arm afterward. We chose to go to Englewood Hospital because we have confidence in their ability to care for our family. I had my children

there, and our children and parents have all been there for surgeries.”

Jeff had emergency surgery that afternoon.

Confident Service, A Certain Future

“Our biggest concern with the open fracture was that Jeff had cut a nerve or artery,” says Jen Fei Lee, MD, FAAOS, hand and upper extremity surgeon with The Bloodless Institute at Englewood Hospital. “Thankfully, that wasn’t the case, so we simply minimized the risk of infection by cleaning the exposed bone and skin, then put in a plate and screws to hold the elbow in place.”

As one of Jehovah’s Witnesses, Jeff cannot receive blood transfusions. For Jeff and his family, knowing that Dr. Lee could care for him—no matter the severity of his injury—without the use of blood was a great comfort.

“We received excellent care at Englewood Hospital,” Amy says. “We know the physicians there are respectful of our wishes, and we’re confident they’re using leading-edge treatment because they cater to patients who don’t receive blood transfusions.”

Jeff had a second surgery two weeks after the first to replace the crushed bone with a titanium implant. After time in a splint, he returned to physical therapy and is expected to regain total use of his arm.

To learn more about The Bloodless Institute at Englewood Hospital, visit www.bloodlessmed.org.