

WHAT IS MY ROLE?

BEFORE TRANSFUSION

- ensure that you understand why you need the transfusion
- check that the risks and alternatives have been discussed with your doctor and that all of your questions have been answered

DURING TRANSFUSION

- a nurse will be closely monitoring you for any reactions to the transfusion
- please inform the nurse of any symptoms or concerns that you might have
- for further information for the Australian Red Cross Blood Service visit: mytransfusion.com.au



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Blood and
Blood Component
Transfusion

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS AND CARERS

Do you need an INTERPRETER?

The hospital provides a free, confidential interpreting service. Please ask your doctor or nurse to organise one for you.

HA BISOGNO DI UN INTERPRETE? L'ospedale offre un servizio interpreti gratuito e confidenziale. Chieda al Suo medico o alla Sua infermiera di organizzarLe un interprete

¿NECESITA UN INTÉRPRETE? El hospital le ofrece un servicio de intérpretes gratuito y confidencial. Por favor, solicite a su médico o enfermera que lo organice.

ΧΡΕΙΑΖΕΣΤΕ ΔΙΕΡΜΗΝΕΑ? Το νοσοκομείο παρέχει δωρεάν, εμπιστευτική υπηρεσία διερμηνείας. Παρακαλείστε να ζητήσετε από το γιατρό ή νοσοκόμο σας να κανονίσει διερμηνέα για σας.

TREBA LI VAM TUMAČ? Bolnica pruža besplatnu i povjerljivu službu tumača. Molimo vas, upitajte vašeg liječnika ili medicinsku sestru da vam to organiziraju.

ДА ЛИ ВАМ ТРЕБА ПРЕВОДИЛАЦ? Болница пружа бесплатне, поверљиве услуге преводиоца. Замолите свог лекара или медицинску сестру да вам обезбеде преводиоца.

QUÍ VỊ CẦN THÔNG NGÔN VIÊN KHÔNG? Bệnh viện cung cấp dịch vụ thông ngôn miễn phí và kín đáo. Xin yêu cầu bác sĩ hay y tá sắp xếp thông ngôn viên cho quý vị.

您需要傳譯員嗎?
本醫院提供免費而保密的傳譯服務。請要求您的醫生或護士為您安排傳譯員。

TERCÜMANA İHTİYACINIZ VAR MI? Hastanemiz ücretsiz ve gizlilik ilkesine bağlı tercümanlık hizmeti sunmaktadır. Doktorunuz veya hemşirenizden size bir tercüman temin etmelerini rica ediniz.

MA U BAAHAN TAHAY TURJUMAAN? Isbitaalku wuxuu bixiyaa adeeg turjumaan oo lacag la'aan ah, qarsoodina ah. Fadlan weydii dhaqtarkaaga ama kalkaaliyahaaga inay turjumaan kuu ballamiyaan.

هل أنت بحاجة إلى مترجم؟ نقدم المستشفى خدمة ترجمة مجانية وسرية. الرجاء الطلب من طبيبك أو الممرضة الترتيب لمترجم لاجلك.



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WHY DO I NEED A BLOOD TRANSFUSION

You may need a blood or blood component transfusion due to:

- major surgery
- pregnancy related blood loss
- to aid in the treatment of certain medical problems such as cancer, blood disorders or kidney disease
- in an emergency situation such as after a road accident

WHAT IS A BLOOD COMPONENT TRANSFUSION?

A blood component transfusion involves the transfusion of a 'component' of blood such as red blood cells, platelets and fresh frozen plasma and cryoprecipitate.

Red Blood Cells contain haemoglobin which carries oxygen around your body, and are transfused if haemoglobin levels are low (anaemia) or in the case of a large blood loss.

Platelets help blood to clot and may be given to prevent or control bleeding when platelet levels are low or do not work properly.

Fresh Frozen Plasma and Cryoprecipitate contain clotting factors which work with the platelets to seal wounds and may be used in emergencies to help stop bleeding.



WHERE DOES TRANSFUSION BLOOD COME FROM?

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service collects blood from suitable donors and tests all blood to ensure its safety.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF HAVING A BLOOD TRANSFUSION?

Blood transfusions can:

- improve the quality of life for people with certain medical conditions
- relieve symptoms of anaemia such as dizziness, tiredness and shortness of breath
- save your life

ARE THERE RISKS WITH HAVING A BLOOD TRANSFUSION?

Blood transfusion is not risk free. As with all medical procedures, complications may occur. All donated blood is screened and donors are not accepted if they have been in contact with a risk eg. bacterial infection.

Strict patient identification, checking procedures and strict monitoring of laboratory processes decrease the risk of reactions caused by blood not being matched properly.

WHAT TYPE OF REACTIONS MIGHT OCCUR?

Allergic reactions include:

- rash
- itching
- dizziness
- headache
- difficulties breathing

RATE OF RISKS

Headaches, mild fever, itching and hives - 1 in 100

Hepatitis B - 1 in 633,000

Hepatitis C - 1 in 6.3 Million

HIV (AIDS) - 1 in 9.2 Million

ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES TO HAVING A BLOOD TRANSFUSION?

Improved surgical techniques have decreased excess bleeding and the need for transfusions. Alternatives may include:

- treating anaemia before planned surgery
- collecting blood lost during surgery and returning it to you

Please discuss these options with your doctor as they are not suitable for everyone.

WHAT IF I DO NOT AGREE TO A TRANSFUSION?

Any concerns you have with blood transfusions need to be discussed with your doctor. Before any transfusion you will be asked for your consent, or permission. You should understand the reasons, risks and benefits and be able to discuss any objections or concerns you may have with your doctor.

However, in the case of an emergency, there may not be time to discuss the treatment prior to the transfusion.

If you have any objections to receiving blood for any reason, please speak to your doctor.

You will be closely monitored throughout the transfusion. However, please tell your nurse if you experience any symptoms.