

Your Notes:

Useful Information

Ward/Department _____

Contact Phone Number _____

Ward Opening Hours _____

Date/Time of Last Transfusion _____

Product(s) Transfused _____

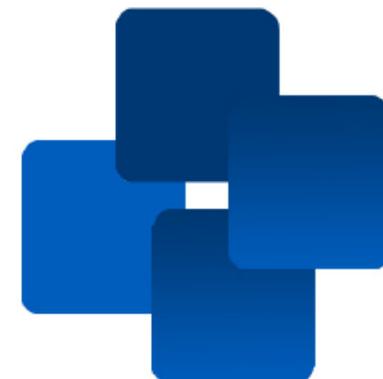
Information and Advice for Patients who have received a blood transfusion

This information leaflet is intended for patients who have been discharged from hospital after receiving a blood transfusion

www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk

You can request this information in a different format or another language.

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Introduction

Most blood transfusions take place uneventfully, but complications can occur occasionally. This leaflet describes the important adverse reactions and what action you should take.

Bleeding from the cannula site

When the nurse removes your intravenous cannula, gentle pressure is applied and a dressing put over the wound to reduce the risk of bleeding. This should be kept on overnight, and removed the following morning.

If the cannula site starts to bleed after leaving the ward, remove the soiled dressing, apply a clean wad of tissue or cotton wool over the wound and press firmly. It may help to elevate the arm and use an ice pack. Once the bleeding has stopped, apply a clean dressing or plaster. If the bleeding fails to stop contact the department where you received the transfusion or if the unit is closed contact :

NHS 111 for advice (phone 111)

Pain and swelling where the needle is inserted

Pain and swelling near the cannula site may be a sign of bruising. If this occurs, apply an ice pack and elevate the arm. If you require further advice you should telephone the ward where you received your transfusion. They may arrange for you to return to the ward for further assessment or suggest you see your own General Practitioner (GP). If the problem occurs out of hours, contact:

NHS 111 for advice (phone 111)

Redness and swelling or discharge around the cannula site

This may be a sign of infection. It is essential you see your General Practitioner (GP) the same day as you may require antibiotics. If the problem occurs out of hours, contact:

NHS 111 for advice (phone 111)

More severe adverse reactions (very rare)

Transfusions can occasionally result in more serious complications. The symptoms to look out for include the following:

- Breathing problems or wheeziness
- Chest pain or pain in the limbs, tummy or lower back
- Swelling of lips/face
- Widespread red itchy rash or wheals
- Fever – rise in temperature
- Shivering/rigors
- Passing blood in your urine
- Unexpected or unexplained bruising
- Jaundice (yellow colour of the white of your eyes or skin)
- Extreme tiredness or generally feeling unwell

These reactions tend to occur within 24 hours of transfusion, but on occasions may be delayed by several days. It is essential that you seek urgent medical advice and inform the healthcare professional that you have had a blood (blood product) transfusion. In the rare event of an emergency (life threatening problems, for example difficulty with breathing) call **999** for an ambulance and inform them that you have had a transfusion.