

TRANSFUSION INFORMATION FOR MEDICAL OFFICERS AT MONASH HEALTH

SAFE TRANSFUSION STARTS WITH YOU

DECISION TO TRANSFUSE

The decision to transfuse all blood products, including red cells, platelets, fresh frozen plasma (FFP) or cryoprecipitate should be based on:

- clinical assessment of the patient
- their response to any previous transfusion(s)
- laboratory values: Hb (red cells), platelet count (platelets), INR (FFP), APTT (FFP or other), fibrinogen (cryoprecipitate) level as appropriate

For elective transfusion in adult patients with low Hb who are clinically stable with no active bleeding, prescribe one red cell unit at a time and re-evaluate need for further transfusion. A single unit approach may not be appropriate in chronically transfused patients

ORDERING

- **Order and Prescribe** the blood component/product(s) including the need for any modifications as appropriate (eg warmed, washed, CMV seronegative &/or irradiated) using the 'HAEM Blood Product Transfusion' order set on EMR or on the Intravenous Infusion Chart MRL09 in the outpatient setting, for example, Medical Infusion Unit
 - Include the rate and sequence (if multiple products are being ordered at once)

CONSENT TO TRANSFUSION

- It is the **prescribing clinician's** responsibility to obtain informed consent **prior** to transfusion
- Written consent must be obtained for non-emergency transfusion of blood components & blood products using **MRM001**
- Where written consent is not possible, verbal consent must be documented in the patient's health record
- Provide information brochure to patient - available for downloading from PROMPT or the MH 'Transfusion Service' webpage

BLOOD BANK REQUEST FORM

For inpatients the order/request is submitted via the EMR's 'HAEM Blood Product Transfusion' order set. Outpatient and 'massive transfusion' order/requests may be submitted on a Blood Bank Request (MRL28)

Request MUST include:

- **Patient details: 3 identifiers**
 - ✓ Family name and given name in full with correct spelling
 - ✓ UR number
 - ✓ Date of birth
 - ✓ OR 'Unknown patient' standard identifier from the Emergency Department
- **Reason for transfusion, previous transfusions, any reactions, current and/or previous pregnancies** in clinical notes section
- **Test requested**, e.g. Blood group and antibody screen
- **Blood components or products required**
 - ✓ Type and number of blood component
 - ✓ Special requirements, e.g. irradiated, CMV seronegative
 - ✓ Date & time required
 - ✓ Location that the product will be transfused
- **Doctor's signature, printed name and pager number** (important for Blood Bank to make contact for questions or problems)
- Blood products will NOT be reserved for a patient by Blood Bank if the 'reason for transfusion' or 'transfusion history' in the clinical notes section has not been completed.
- If you do not complete the 'transfusion history' section, the Blood Bank scientist will phone and ask you to provide the details.

PATIENT IDENTIFICATION

Thorough checking of patient identity is vital. Errors or omissions can lead to fatal consequences.

It is essential to positively identify the patient prior to all treatment and testing.

Correct Identification:

- Ask the patient **TO TELL YOU** their full name and date of birth
- If the patient is unconscious or unable to provide these details, ask a relative or a second member of staff to verify the patient's identity
- Check patient's full name, UR number & date of birth **exactly** match on their identification wristband & all documentation

LABELLING OF BLOOD BANK SPECIMENS

Monash Health has a mandatory labelling procedure for Blood Bank specimens and a zero tolerance policy for mislabelled sample/request forms.

- If any labelling criteria are not met the specimen is discarded and a new order/request **MUST** be submitted with a new specimen collected from the patient
- Corrections are **not** accepted under any circumstances, so please do not ask laboratory staff to allow this
- **Request form & specimen tube MUST have**
 - ✓ patient family name and given name, UR number & DOB
 - ✓ handwritten or hospital identification label
 - ✓ date & time the sample was collected
 - ✓ the signature or initials of the collector
 - ✓ EMR stickers must be signed/dated/timed and a signed/dated/timed printed request must accompany the specimen

- Δ Only process 1 patient at a time
 - Δ NEVER pre-label the specimen tubes
 - Δ The person taking the blood is responsible for ensuring correct labelling

TRANSFUSION INFORMATION FOR MEDICAL OFFICERS AT MONASH HEALTH

SAFE TRANSFUSION STARTS WITH YOU

ADVERSE REACTIONS

All transfusion reactions must be managed and reported according to the MH Transfusion Reaction Procedure on PROMPT. Many of the serious adverse reactions following blood transfusions are unpredictable.

The most important are:

- haemolytic transfusion reactions
- febrile reactions – while many are minor, think of the possibility of bacterial contamination of the blood component
- allergy and anaphylaxis
- transfusion-associated circulatory overload

If a transfusion reaction is suspected because the patient complains of symptoms or there are changes in vital sign measurements:

- **STOP the transfusion**
- Maintain the IV line with Normal Saline (do not flush the line)
- Recheck the identity of the patient and blood component
- Monitor the patient's vital signs

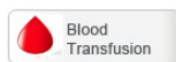
Further management depends on the type and severity of the reaction. The Monash Health transfusion registrar (or haematologist) on-call can provide immediate advice on investigation and management. The Hospital Blood Bank or the [Pathology Specimen Collection Handbook](#) can provide advice on the samples to be collected for investigation of a transfusion reaction.

RESOURCES

Monash Health 'Transfusion Service' on Intranet:

 Clinical Portal

on left hand menu of intranet homepage →



→ Transfusion Service

Procedures, Clinical Guidelines & Implementation Tools:

- All are available on the PROMPT document management system.
- Procedures must be strictly followed when collecting Blood Bank specimens and administering blood components and blood products.



PROMPT is available via an icon on desktops and via the intranet.

Electronic Medical Record (EMR)

- Quick Reference Guides, videos and workflow posters are available on the Monash Health intranet under 'EMR Resources' <https://emrmonashhealth.org/>. Type 'blood' into the search engine.

BloodSafe E-learning Package – 'Clinical Transfusion Practice'

- Available on the intranet via LATTE (Learning and Teaching Technology Environment).
- You will need to register on BloodSafe to do the package.
- Your registration with BloodSafe must include Monash Health as your workplace and your Monash Health Employee number so local course completion can be tracked.
- If you already have a BloodSafe login, check and update your Profile and Workplace details.

Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Transfusion Orientation Pack

- Available via the following link: https://transfusion.com.au/jmo_education

CONTACTS

- **Transfusion or on-call Haematology Registrar or on-call haematologist** can be contacted anytime via a switch. Transfusion Registrar can also be contacted via pager 5333.
- **Blood Management Nurse Consultants** - Christine Michael & Pratima Chebrolu available Monday to Friday 8.00am-4.30pm ext 46039 or pager 433 or email: transfusionnurse@monashhealth.org

BLOOD MANAGEMENT WEBSITES

Australian Red Cross Lifeblood	https://transfusion.com.au
ANZSBT (Australian & New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion)	https://www.anzsb.org.au
Blood Matters (Department of Health Transfusion Program)	Blood Matters
National Blood Authority (includes National Patient Blood Management Guidelines)	https://www.blood.gov.au