

Blood Transfusion

Information for patients following a blood transfusion

① For more information, please contact:

Tina Ivel, Transfusion Practitioner, Tel: 01904 725830

Having a blood transfusion is acknowledged as being a very safe procedure however, there is a very small risk of developing side effects.

Side effects may develop within several hours, or in some cases may happen days or weeks later.

Side effects happen rarely, are usually mild in nature, and cause very few problems. But it is important that you report any unusual or unexpected symptoms to your doctor, nurse, or midwife (if your transfusion was related to pregnancy/childbirth).

Seek medical advice if you experience any of the following symptoms within 48 hours of receiving a transfusion of red cells or platelets:

- A high temperature – feeling feverish, hot and clammy.
- Shivering or cold chills (rigors).
- Breathing problems or wheeziness.
- Itchy skin rash or nettle rash (hives/Urticaria).
- Feeling sick or vomiting.

- Swelling of any part of the body, especially around mouth, lips or face.
- Pain in limbs, chest or tummy, or in the lower back (loin pain).

Or any of these symptoms up to 4 weeks after receiving a transfusion of red cells:

- Extreme tiredness or generally feeling unwell.
- Blood in the urine; or passing much less, or very dark urine.
- Jaundice (yellow colour of the whites of your eyes).
- Unexpected or unexplained bruising.

If you experience any of the symptoms listed above, please seek medical advice either through your GP, or by telephoning your hospital team on:

Contact telephone number: _____

Tell them your symptoms and inform them that you have recently had a red cell/platelet transfusion and you are contacting them because of the advice in this leaflet.

In the rare event of an emergency (life threatening problems, for example, difficulty with breathing), call 999 for an ambulance and bring this leaflet into hospital with you.

Details - Delete as appropriate*

*Red Cell Transfusion Date: _____ - _____ - _____

*Platelet Transfusion Date: _____ - _____ - _____

As stated, reactions are rare, but it is important that possible transfusion reactions are reported so they can be treated appropriately, and quickly, if necessary.

If you would like to have further information or advice about this, or other aspects of blood transfusion, please discuss this with your doctor, nurse, or midwife.

Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact: Tina Ivel, Blood Transfusion Practitioner, York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE or telephone 01904 725830.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email yhs-tr.patientexperienceteam@nhs.net

An answer phone is available out of hours.

Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

If you would like this information in a different format, including braille or easy read, or translated into a different language, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department providing your care.

Patient Information Leaflets can be accessed via the Trust's Patient Information Leaflet website: www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/your-visit/patient-information-leaflets/

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