

Informed Consent to Transfusion

- The most responsible healthcare provider must ensure informed consent is obtained before a patient receives any blood component or product. The consent must be documented.
- The patient must be given the opportunity to ask questions and understand the transfusion before it is administered.

PRESCRIBER RESPONSIBILITIES

- > Explain risks and benefits
- > Explain available alternatives
- > Describe blood component or product to be transfused
- > Answer patient questions about the transfusion
- > Document reason for transfusion and the informed consent

TRANSFUSIONIST RESPONSIBILITIES

- > Confirm patient has given informed consent
- > Verify patient identification
- > Ensure patient questions have been answered
- > Confirm issue of the correct product to the correct patient
- > Monitor and check vital signs for any symptoms of reaction

POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVES TO TRANSFUSION

- Iron Therapy, Cell Salvage, Erythropoietin
- Antifibrinolytics

SYMPTOMS OF ADVERSE REACTION

- Fever (38°C and more than 1°C from baseline)
- Chills or rigors
- Dyspnea (shortness of breath)
- Rash, hives, swelling, itching
- Anxiety or agitation
- Pain (head, chest or back)
- Hypertension
- Hypotension/shock

WHAT TO DO IN EVENTS OF REACTION

1. **STOP THE TRANSFUSION IMMEDIATELY**
2. Maintain IV access and contact attending physician
3. Check vital signs every 15 minutes
4. Recheck patient/unit ID
5. Contact the transfusion laboratory
6. Follow instructions for specimen collection and product return



Major Risks of Transfusion

NON-INFECTIOUS COMPLICATIONS	ESTIMATED RISK
New antibody formation from red cell transfusion	1 in 13
Febrile non-hemolytic transfusion reaction (FNHTR) - Platelets	1 in 20
Transfusion Associated Circulatory Overload (TACO)	1 in 50
Febrile non-hemolytic transfusion reaction (FNHTR) - Red cells	1 in 300
Delayed Hemolytic Transfusion Reaction (DHTR)	1 in 7,000
Transfusion Related Acute Lung Injury (TRALI)	1 in 10,000
ABO incompatible acute hemolytic reaction	1 in 40,000
Serious allergic reaction/anaphylaxis	1 in 40,000
Risk of death from transfusion	1 in 250,000
INFECTIOUS COMPLICATIONS	ESTIMATED RISK
Symptomatic bacterial sepsis - Platelets	1 in 10,000
Symptomatic bacterial sepsis - Red cells	1 in 250,000
West Nile Virus (WNV)	1 in 1 million
Chagas disease	1 in 4 million
Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)	1 in 8 million
Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)	1 in 13 million
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	1 in 21 million