

General RBC Transfusion Guidelines: Stable, non-bleeding, inpatient

Pt's Hb	Units	When to consider transfusion
< 60 g/L	One to two*	Transfusion highly recommended except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young pts may tolerate hemoglobin levels under 60 g/L without transfusion (as low as 30g/L) • Pts with chronic iron deficiency anemia without symptoms rarely need transfusion (consider IV iron) • Pts with chronic anemia are more likely to have TACO/CHF if given more than one unit
< 70 g/L	One	Likely appropriate
< 80 g/L	One	Maybe appropriate in pts with cardiovascular disease
< 90 g/L	One	Only if there are signs of impaired tissue oxygenation (shortness of breath, chest pain, tachycardia)
≥ 90 g/L	None	Likely inappropriate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult blood bank physician before ordering

* Transfuse units one at a time. Assess patient and do a CBC before transfusing second unit to determine if it is necessary