

# Having a blood transfusion (Easy Read)

**i** Information for patients  
Blood Transfusion



Easy Read



We all need a certain amount of blood in our bodies to keep us well.

Blood helps to get food and oxygen to different parts of our body.



Sometimes we lose some of our blood. This may be because we have:

- had an operation
- given birth to a baby
- had an accident



It is ok if we lose a small amount of blood as our body can replace it.

If we lose too much blood it can be very dangerous.

If this happens we will need some help to replace it.



Sometimes there is something wrong with our blood. This may mean it does not take food and oxygen around our bodies properly. If this happens a blood transfusion can help.

This booklet tells you about having a blood transfusion.



We can replace blood by giving a blood transfusion.

A blood transfusion is where we take blood from one person, check it is ok and give it to another.



The doctor will talk to you about having a blood transfusion.

The doctor will need to have your permission before they can give you a blood transfusion.



Ask the doctor or nurse if you have any questions.



Blood Bank will need to check carefully what type of blood you have.

This is so that it matches the blood you are given.



When you come for your transfusion, the nurse will give you a wristband with your name and other details on. It is important they get all these details right.

They will put this on your wrist so they can check each bag of blood has your details on it.



The doctor may ask the nurse to put some special cream on the back of your hand or arm.

This is so that it won't hurt when we get you ready for your transfusion.



The doctor or nurse will put a small needle in the back of your hand or in your arm. This is called a cannula.

This may hurt a little but the cream we put on will help.

You must keep your arm still.



The blood for your transfusion is stored in a small plastic bag.

The bag holds just under a pint of blood.

You may be given more than one bag of blood during your transfusion.



The nurses will check your details with you and your wristband.

They will check each bag of blood has your details on it.

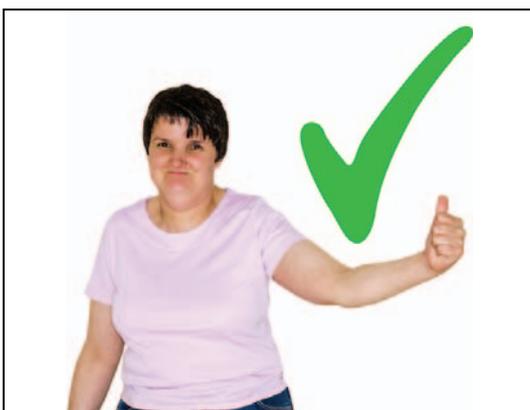


The bag of blood will be connected to and fill a long, thin plastic tube.

The tube will then be connected to your cannula and the blood will flow slowly into your arm.



It takes from 2 to 3 hours to receive each bag of blood.

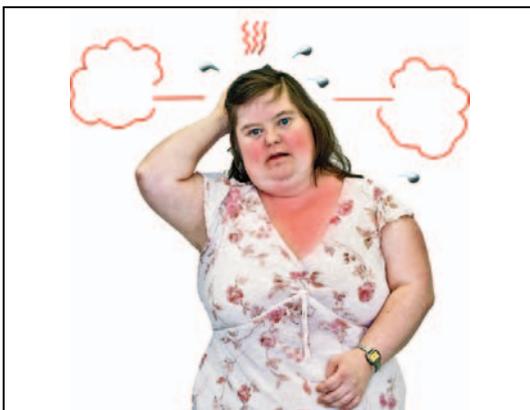


Most people don't feel anything while they are having a blood transfusion.

If you do begin to feel unwell please tell the doctor or nurse straight away.



The nurse will keep checking you are ok whilst you are having your transfusion. They will check things like your temperature and breathing.



Some people feel a bit poorly.

If you start to get a:

- temperature
- shivers
- rash

tell the nurse or doctor straight away.



The nurse will tell you and your carer how to look after yourself when you go home.

You may be able to go home on the same day.



You can ask the nurse if you have any questions.





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