

*Tell your physician or nurse if you have had a reaction to blood or blood products in the past.*

## Blood Transfusion – Receiving Blood and Blood Products

This guide will help you understand what to expect if you are going to receive a blood transfusion. A blood transfusion is a common procedure where a person receives donated blood or blood products from a volunteer donor through an IV (into the vein) line. A person may need a blood transfusion due to blood loss from a surgery or injury, or certain medical conditions or diseases. Blood transfusions usually occur without any complications. The clinician will ask you to sign a form to consent to the transfusion. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk with your physician or nurse.

### Before the transfusion

A clinician will take a sample of your blood and send it to the laboratory (lab). The lab will test your blood to make sure that it is a safe match with the donor blood. The lab will check your blood for:

- Blood type (A, AB, B, O)
- Rh factor (positive or negative)
- Antibodies (if there are unexpected antibodies, it may take longer to get blood ready)

In some cases, the lab may need another blood sample to complete the testing.

Before starting the transfusion, the healthcare team will check your personal information and will make sure it matches the information on the blood product tag. This ensures that we will give the right blood product to the right patient.

### During the transfusion

You may eat, drink and move around during the transfusion, if it does not interfere with the IV line and blood bag. Your transfusion may infuse in a short time or it may take up to 4 hours. The nurse will watch you closely before, during and after each transfusion.

Tell your healthcare team if you have any of these symptoms:

- Pain or swelling at the IV site
- Trouble breathing or wheezing
- Itching, rash or hives

- Feeling hot or cold
- Feeling sick to your stomach
- Headache, or back or chest pain

## After the transfusion

Most people can return to normal activities after a transfusion. Ask your care team for instructions for your care. Sometimes, you can have a delayed reaction to a transfusion.

Call your physician or healthcare team if you have any of these symptoms:

- Fever
- Dark-colored urine
- Whites of your eyes or skin become yellow

Healthcare team member name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_