


Transfusion Pathway

Decision to transfuse

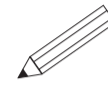
This pathway and your local documentation will support compliance with the NHS QIS Blood Transfusion Standards. Complete local documentation as appropriate. 

Only staff who have completed the BBTP continuing education programme (or equivalent) appropriate to their role can participate in the clinical transfusion process. In addition, staff who participate in blood collection also require to be competency assessed.

- Clinical judgement is vital and should be based on individual patient's needs, consider:
 - age and underlying medical condition
 - physiological status
 - the risks of transfusion vs non transfusion
- Refer to your local transfusion policy for further guidance or SIGN 54 (2001) and British Committee for Standards in Haematology (BCSH, 2001-2004) guidelines

Practitioner

- Discuss with patient need for blood/blood component
- Discuss alternatives and option to refuse
- Provide patient information leaflet
- Record informed consent in medical notes
- Record indication in transfusion record



Decision to transfuse

Practitioner

- Complete blood request form indicating if patient has any transfusion special requirements eg CMV –ve or irradiated

Practitioner/Phlebotomist/Support Staff eg Auxilliary Nurse or Healthcare Support Worker

- Confirm positive patient identification and check documentation eg patient labels
- Take sample for pre-transfusion testing
- Label all samples beside the patient
- Send blood sample and request form to hospital transfusion laboratory



Laboratory Staff

- Perform pre-transfusion testing
- Select, label and issue compatible units if required

Requesting/
sampling

Practitioner/Support Staff

- Ensure collection slip/patient identification matches with the patient
- Ensure blood/blood components are prescribed before collection

Porter/Practitioner/Support Staff

- Check collection slip/patient identification against compatibility label on component
- Sign, date and time all documentation as per local policy

Porter/Practitioner/Support Staff

- Deliver blood/blood components to clinical area and, where appropriate, store red blood cells in an authorised satellite blood refrigerator

Blood
collection


Practitioner/Support Staff

- Receive blood components in clinical area
- Ensure transfusion starts in accordance with local protocol/policy

Practitioner

Undertake pre administration checks:

- **Step 1:** Check the blood component has been prescribed
- **Step 2:** Undertake visual inspection of bag, check for leaks, discolouration and clumping and check expiry date
- **Step 3:** Undertake and record baseline observations

 If in doubt do **not** proceed. Contact laboratory.

Practitioner/Support Staff

- Ensure patient is wearing an identification band and confirm positive patient identification by asking the patient to state their **full name and date of birth**
- Check this information matches identification band, compatibility label and blood bag label
- For compromised patients, be extra vigilant, follow the local identification protocol/policy

Administering

Practitioner

- Ensure blood transfusion documentation is completed
- Return traceability tag to transfusion laboratory

Practitioner/Support Staff

- Monitor and record patient's temperature, blood pressure and pulse **15 minutes** after transfusion has commenced. **This early check is vital**
- Continue recording observations **hourly** as a minimum and at **end** of transfusion
- Repeat for every unit transfused
- Ensure transfusion is completed within 4 hours of removal from fridge
- Monitor and respond to any adverse event
- Report any adverse event to transfusion laboratory



Practitioner

- Reassess the need for further component and initiate blood collection process

Practitioner

- Record completed transfusion
- Record post-transfusion full blood count and clinical outcome in patient records



Practitioner

- Ensure the patient knows they have had a transfusion and where relevant, record that a post-transfusion discussion has happened

Monitoring

Monitoring