



A guide to...

You have received an unexpected transfusion

Patient Information

How to contact us

Haematology

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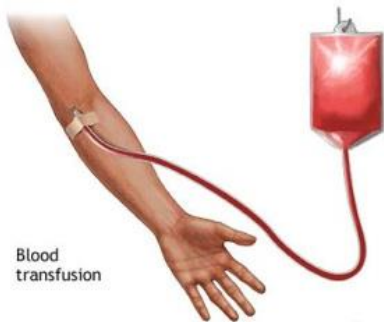
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please call **01923 217 198** or email westherths.pals@nhs.net



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You received an unexpected transfusion



Why were you given a transfusion?

Like all medical treatments, a transfusion would have been given if it was essential. Your doctor would have considered the risk of you having a transfusion against not being transfused.

Why are transfusions necessary?

Blood contains many different cells. Red cells are essential for carrying oxygen around the body. A lack of these cells is known as anaemia.

A blood transfusion may be given because of the lack of red cells in the blood. A transfusion may be used to treat severe bleeding, for example during and after an operation, childbirth or after a serious accident.

Is blood transfusion safe?

Yes. The risk that a transfusion may make you ill is very low. All donated blood is carefully selected and tested to make sure that it is as safe as possible. Blood you have received would have been thoroughly checked by the laboratory and the nurses to ensure you were transfused the right blood or blood product.

As a precautionary measure to reduce the risk of transmitting infections such as Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (vCJD), Hepatitis B and C and HIV (which is very low), people who have received a blood transfusion since 1980 are not currently able to donate blood.

How was the transfusion given?

A transfusion is given through a tiny tube directly into a vein. To ensure your safety, you would have been observed before, during and after your transfusion to monitor for any reactions. Severe reactions are very rare.

What if I have any worries having received a transfusion?

If you have any concerns you should discuss them with your GP or contact your hospital transfusion practitioners on **01923 218078 or 217548**

Further sources of information

If you are interested in finding out more about transfusion and have access to the internet, you may find the following websites useful:

NHS Choices: – <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/blood-transfusion/>

UK Transfusion Services: – <https://www.transfusionguidelines.org/>