

Transfusion

Pre and post transfusion advice for patients receiving a blood component transfusion

- You have been advised that you need a red cell or platelet transfusion.
 - The practitioner in clinic today will give you the time and date of your transfusion.
 - **Before you leave the hospital today** you must have a simple blood test taken so that we can prepare your blood component for when you require the transfusion.
 - Please discuss with the practitioner what time should you arrive on the clinical area.
 - Unless directed by your doctor you should still take your medications as normal on the day of transfusion. You should also bring with you your required medication(s) for the day.
 - **On the day** of your transfusion, please book in at the clinical area as directed.
 - When you arrive on the clinical area, if you do not have a central line, the nurse will place an intravenous cannula into your hand or arm and may take a further blood sample before your transfusion.
 - Generally the clinical areas are for patients only and relatives or friends may not be able to sit with you whilst you have your transfusion. If you are attending the Endocrine unit for a transfusion you will be allowed to have one relative or friend remain with you. However, please check with your practitioner beforehand.
 - Refreshments will be provided.
 - You can bring something to read or listen to whilst you are waiting.
 - Your appointment/transfusion episode may take up to 5 hours or longer.
 - Most transfusions take place without problems but having a transfusion carries a very small risk of developing side effects. These may develop whilst the transfusion is in progress, within several hours, or in some cases, may happen days or weeks later.
 - **Please contact the hospital for advice if you experience any of the following symptoms:**
 - **A rise in your temperature – feeling feverish, hot and clammy**
 - **Shivering or ‘cold chills’**
 - **Breathing problems**
 - **Extreme tiredness**
 - **Passing blood in your urine**
 - **Passing much less, or very much darker urine than usual for you**
 - **Itchy skin rash**
 - **Pain in lower back (loin pain)**
 - **Unexpected or unexplained bruising**
 - **Jaundice (yellow colour of the white of your eyes or skin)**
- OR anything which is different from normal**

If you have any concerns or questions please contact The Christie Hotline on: **0161 446 3658**.

Please tell the staff that you have recently had a transfusion.

If you are unable to contact The Christie, then please contact your GP as soon as possible.

In the rare event of an emergency (life threatening problems, for example, difficulty breathing, cardiac pain) call 999 for an ambulance. This will take you to your local hospital – remember to take this leaflet into the hospital with you.

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

Contact The Christie Hotline for
urgent support and specialist advice

**The Christie Hotline:
0161 446 3658**

Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

We try to ensure that all our information given to patients is accurate, balanced and based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact **patient.information@christie.nhs.uk**

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For more information about The Christie and our services, please visit **www.christie.nhs.uk** or visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford.

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