

Patient information

Blood transfusion

Advice for patients following a blood transfusion (day case or on discharge)

Following any blood transfusion there is always a very small risk of developing side effects. This may happen within several hours, or in some cases may happen days/weeks later

These side effects are often mild, but it is still important to report any unusual or unexpected symptoms to a doctor or nurse (or midwife if your transfusion was related to pregnancy/childbirth) immediately.

Please seek medical advice if you experience any of the following after having a blood transfusion:

- A high temperature – feeling feverish, hot and clammy
- Shivering or ‘cold chills’
- Breathing problems or wheeziness
- Extreme tiredness or generally feeling unwell
- Passing blood in your urine, passing much less or very dark urine
- Skin rash, maybe itchy
- Pain in the limbs, chest or tummy or in the lower back (loin pain)
- Unexpected or unexplained bruising
- Jaundice (yellow colour of the white of your eyes or your skin)

Please contact the hospital for advice:

Department:

Contact telephone number:

Out of hours number:

Inform the hospital staff that you have recently had a blood product transfusion:

On (date) (time)

Under the care of (Dr)

Your hospital number

If you are unable to make contact with the hospital where you had your transfusion, then please contact your GP as soon as possible.

In the rare event of an emergency (life threatening problems for example difficulty with breathing), call 999 for an ambulance and bring this leaflet into hospital with you.

If you would like further information or advice about this, or other aspects of blood transfusion, please discuss this with your hospital doctor, nurse or midwife.

(Acknowledgements: The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Taunton & Somerset Hospital NHS Trust, NHSBT)

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo) <https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>



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