

The Process of Community Blood Transfusions By Hospital at Home

Information for patients



**Blood Transfusion /Blood Product Information.
Please keep this leaflet safe.**

Blood transfusion in the community by the OUH H@H teams

This service is for patients who would benefit from receiving a blood transfusion or blood product in their home or care home setting rather than a hospital setting.

A blood transfusion is the process of delivering a blood product into a patients vein.

Your case has been reviewed and you have been deemed suitable to receive a blood transfusion or blood product.

If you have any concerns about receiving a Blood Transfusion in the Home, then you should discuss these with your Doctor.

The Process of Community Blood Transfusions by Hospital at Home (H@H)

First visit:

- We will complete 1 visit prior to commencing the transfusion process. On the first visit we will discuss the process and answer any questions you may have.
- A blood sample will be taken and a cannula inserted. A cannula is a small tube entered into a vein to administer intravenous medication including blood products.

Second visit:

- The H@H clinician will call you on the day and ensure you have consented and that you are at home to receive the transfusion.
- A H@H clinician will stay with you throughout the transfusion process.
- The Blood Transfusion is usually given through a tiny tube directly into a vein in the arm.
- The Blood Transfusion will normally take 3 to 4 hours.
- The H@H clinician will take your observations, this will include temperature, pulse, respiration, saturation levels and blood pressure.
- You should tell the h@h clinician if you have any signs or symptoms, that you could be having a reaction to the blood transfusion or blood product.
- If you feel unwell then the H@H clinician will review the transfusion and if it needs to be stopped.
- If the transfusion is stopped and treatment is required, the H@H clinician will provide this.
- We recommend that someone stays with on the day of the transfusion, so that they can call for assistance if needed.

Third visit:

- We will visit you for the next 2 days.
- We will check your observations and monitor your bloods.

After care:

- You will receive a telephone call from one of the H@H clinicians for up to 2 to 4 weeks dependent on need.
- If you experience any problems following the transfusion then please contact the team.
- If no further treatment is needed, then you will be discharged from our service back to your GP or specialist care provider.

What do I do if I feel more unwell?

Transfusion reactions normally present within 24 hours of receiving a transfusion procedure and patients rarely experience any reactions.

The most common mild symptoms include fever, chills, and itchiness. These normally resolve with no or minimum treatment.

For mild symptoms you can contact a member of the H@H team. Our core working hours are 8am to 8pm daily.

If you can check your temperature, please do so as we will ask for this when you call.

Contact information

- If you feel more unwell at any point, please contact the team.
- We are available between **8am and 8pm every day:**

Office Number: **01865 227 461**

Mobile Number: **07887 631 924**

Via the Oxford University Hospital switchboard on **03003 047 777** and ask for **bleep 8118**.

Outside of these core hours please call 111 or 999 depending on your symptoms.

Outside of our core working hours if you feel unwell **call 111** for advice.

If you experience severe respiratory distress, difficulty in breathing, high fever, low blood pressure or discoloured urine. Then call 999.

Delayed Transfusion reactions can occur up to 2 to 4 weeks post transfusion. If you feel unwell during this time, please follow the above guidance.

When paramedics arrive, please inform them you are under the care of the OUH H@H Teams and, if possible, give them this leaflet so they can contact us.

Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

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