

**Alternatives to
Blood Transfusions:**

- Medications (B12 and iron) can help your body increase its red blood cell production.
- Medications to help prevent bleeding
- Surgical Intervention if needed
- Please discuss with your health care provider if there are alternatives that are right for you

**Providing consent to receive a
Blood Transfusion:**

Consent is mandatory to proceed with a transfusion. Your health care provider will discuss with you the blood or blood product, benefits and risks to receiving transfusion, alternative therapies and give you the opportunity to ask questions. You will be asked to sign an informed consent, This confirms your agreement to receive blood products, if necessary. You can change your mind at any time.

**Can I choose not to have a
Blood Transfusion?**

Yes, If you do not consent to a blood transfusion, your health care provider will explain the risks of not receiving a transfusion.



Brockville General Hospital

www.brockvillegeneralthospital.ca

Outpatient Clinics and Cancer Care

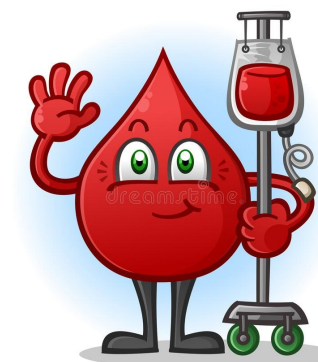
as of February 2024



**Brockville General
Hospital**

Blood Transfusion

Information for
Patients and Their
Family



What is a Blood Transfusion?

A blood transfusion is a treatment necessary to treat a low hemoglobin due to a bleeding disorder, an illness, an injury or surgery. Your body needs to have the right amount of each part of your blood for you to be healthy. If your body cannot replace these parts quickly enough then a blood product transfusion may be needed .

The three main parts of blood are:

1. **Red blood cells:** the red blood cells main job is to carry oxygen to all the parts of the body.
2. **Platelets:** platelets are sticky cells that the body needs to help form clots to prevent and stop bleeding.
3. **Plasma:** plasma is the liquid part of the blood which has proteins that help the blood clot.

A blood transfusion is when a person is given human blood products through an Intravenous (IV)

Where does blood come from?

There are two blood collection agencies in Canada: Canadian Blood Services and Héma- Québec. All donors go through a pre-donation screening process to review their health, travel and social history to ensure they meet strict criteria. The blood is tested for infectious disease that may be spread by blood transfusion including: Hepatitis B and C and HIV (AIDS).

What are the risks?

While Canada's blood supply is one of the safest in the world, there are rare risks associated with transfusion such as transmitted disease or infection. If you would like more detailed information regarding the risks please visit "Blood transfusion Information for Patient" at:

www.transfusionontario.org

What to expect during your Transfusion

During your transfusion, you will be monitored closely for the first 15 minutes then at different times throughout the transfusion . Although reactions during a blood transfusion are rare, it is important you understand what could happen. Possible signs and symptoms of a reaction include: fever, chills, pain (head, chest or back), anxiety, rash/hives/itching, nausea/vomiting, difficulty breathing and high or low blood pressure.

If you are feeling unwell, be sure to tell your nurse or doctor as soon as possible.

If you experience a reaction during your transfusion , the transfusion will be stopped, you may be given medicine to help you feel better and your healthcare provider will decide if your transfusion should continue.



Process to receive a transfusion in Outpatient Clinics:

Your health care provider will send a Referral Form to the Medical Day Clinical (MDC) to request your transfusion.

You will be contacted by a member of the Medical Day Clinic team to book an appointment for your transfusion.

1-2 days prior to your appointment you will need to go to the BGH Outpatient Lab to have your blood drawn.

In the event that your blood work shows that you do not require a transfusion, your health care provider's office will contact you.

Upon arriving to BGH, please enter via the main entrance and follow the signs to Central Registration. After registering, please proceed to Outpatient Clinics. Please have a seat in the waiting area and a staff member will bring you into the department for your appointment.

Parking is available for a fee which can be paid by cash or card . Visitor parking is available by driving straight (East) on Charles Street until you arrive at the gated lot. When you enter lot a ticket will be provided .Please take your ticket with you as payment machine is located inside hospital at main entrance .

If you have questions you can contact:

Outpatient Clinics and Cancer Care

(613)345-5649 ext 51250