



Information for patients who have received an unexpected blood transfusion

This leaflet should be read alongside the Welsh Blood Service patient information leaflet '*Will I need a blood transfusion?*'

While you were in hospital, it was considered necessary for you to receive a blood transfusion.

There are many reasons why patients may need a transfusion, some of which are discussed in the '*Will I need a blood transfusion?*' leaflet. However do please ask a member of your healthcare team about why you needed a blood transfusion. They will be able to answer any questions you may have.

Are blood transfusions safe?

Yes, the risk that a blood transfusion may make you ill is very low. More information about any potential infection risks, and all the measures that are taken to ensure your safety, is included in the leaflet '*Will I need a blood transfusion?*'.

I'm a blood donor. Can I still donate?

As a precautionary measure to reduce the risk of transmitting variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD), people who have received a blood transfusion since 1980 are not currently able to donate blood.

Do I need to tell my doctor?

The hospital should include information in the discharge letter to your GP to tell them that you have had a blood transfusion, and to explain why it was carried out. The hospital should give you a copy of this letter; if they don't, you can ask the hospital for a copy.

Additional sources of Information

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

Welsh Blood Service

www.welshblood.org.uk

NHS Choice

www.nhs.uk/conditions/blood-transfusion

UK Transfusion Services

www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk

NHSBT

www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/what-we-do/blood-services/blood-transfusion/

In order to plan for future blood demands, information about which patients receive blood needs to be gathered. We may ask a hospital or GP to provide limited medical information on a sample of patients who have received blood transfusions. Any information that is passed on to the WBS is held securely, with the rights of these patients protected under the data protection legislation.

A print-friendly version of this leaflet can be accessed at:

<https://portal.welsh-blood.org.uk>

Healthcare professionals - additional copies of this leaflet can be ordered at:

<https://wbs-intranet.cymru.nhs.uk/bht/leaflet-order-form/>

Acknowledgments to NHS Blood and Transplant for the original content of this leaflet.



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