

Future Management

If your doctor suspects that you have had a delayed reaction to a blood or blood product transfusion, they must notify the pathology service that provided the transfusion.

This allows for prompt investigation. They may further screen your blood to avoid problems if you ever need another transfusion.

What you can do:

Discuss the management of any future blood or blood product transfusions with your doctor.

Always give complete health information to health care providers. Tell them you had a delayed reaction to a blood or blood product transfusion.

You may need to carry an ID card with current health information.

Discuss with your doctor if an ID bracelet or pendant is necessary for you.

Resources

You can get more information from the following resources:

Australian Red Cross Blood Service

www.mytransfusion.com.au

Information about transfusion can be found by clicking on the tabs.

National Blood Authority

www.blood.gov.au

Click on '**For Patients**' box. Look for 'Quick links to the latest information for patients' heading.

Clinical Excellence Commission

www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au

Click on **Patient Safety Programs** ► **Assurance Governance** ► **Blood Watch**
Click on **Quality Care** to find the **Information for Patients** leaflets, available in 16 languages.

Blood Transfusion

Delayed Reactions after transfusion of Blood & Blood Products

Information for patients, their families
and carers

Some things to be aware of...

Patient Name:

Date of Transfusion:

Type of Transfusion:



Health
Northern NSW
Local Health District

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Delayed Reactions

During a blood or blood product transfusion you are carefully monitored by staff. They are trained to identify any sudden reaction during the transfusion.

Reactions are rare and most people will not experience any negative effects. However, a delayed reaction is possible. This can develop 24 hours later, or even up to 4 weeks after a transfusion. It may often be unrecognised.

The most likely cause of delayed reaction is that your body has developed antibodies. These were too low to be detected in pre transfusion testing. They have intensified as a result of the current transfusion. These antibodies can develop as a result of pregnancy or a previous transfusion.

(Antibodies: cells of the immune system that attack foreign substances).

Signs and Symptoms of a Delayed Reaction

- Jaundice
(Yellowing skin or white of the eye)
- Hives, rash or itching
- Fever and/or chills and shaking
- Nausea and vomiting
- Low blood pressure
- Dizziness or fainting
- Headaches, seizures
- Tiredness and weakness
- Decrease in urine output
- Dark coloured urine
- Unexplained bleeding or bruising
(Nose bleeds, blood in urine)

What you should do

If you experience any of these delayed symptoms you should notify either your:

- Doctor (GP)
- Aboriginal Medical Service
- Treating Specialist
- Unit or Outpatient clinic where you received the transfusion

OR

Present to your nearest Emergency Department