

‘Safety in the blood’

safe blood transfusion practice for Health Care Support Workers

Take-away points for the study day:

- Blood must be stored in a validated blood fridge or transport container, at 2-6 ° C.
- Blood can be out of temperature controlled storage for a maximum of 30 minutes.
- When collecting any blood component for transfusion you must inform / hand unit over to the requester as soon as you get to the ward / requesting area.
- You must take the following patient information with you when collecting any blood component: first name, surname, date of birth, NHS / Hospital number, and check it against the component being collected.
- Labelling of pre-transfusion blood samples must be done at the patient’s bedside at the time of sampling.
- Pre-transfusion checks must be done at the patient’s bedside.
- Positive patient identification should be used whenever possible.
- If a transfusion reaction is suspected the transfusion should be stopped immediately.
- As a minimum observations should be done within 60 minutes before, at 15 minutes after starting, and within 60 minutes after finishing any transfusion.
- Regular visual observation of the patient should be done throughout the transfusion.

Skills for Health

This study day contributes towards the Skills for Health competencies:

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| CHS 132 | Obtain venous blood samples |
| GEN 57 | Collect blood / blood products from storage for transfusion |
| CHS 101 | Organise the collection and receipt of blood / blood products for transfusion |
| CHS 102 | Prepare to administer transfusion of blood / blood products to patients |
| CHS 103 | Administer a transfusion of blood / blood products |