

Massive blood loss in adults

≥ 40% loss of total blood volume

4 litres in 24 hours 2 litres in 3 hours > 150ml/min

Get help

Contact Transfusion Laboratory

Contact senior member of clinical team. Contact senior ward nurses
Contact portering services

Contact Transfusion

Ask Transfusion to 'initiate massive blood loss protocol'

Assess ABC

IV access

Check patient identification
2 large cannula

Send blood samples, cross-match, FBC, coagulation, biochemistry
Consider arterial blood gas measurement
Send FBC and coagulation samples after every 5 units of blood given

Resuscitate

IV warm fluids – crystalloid or colloid
Give oxygen

Give blood

Blood loss >40% blood volume is immediately life-threatening

Give 4 units via fluid warmer. Aim for Hb>8g/dl
Give Group O Rh D negative if immediate need and/or blood group unknown

Blood transfusion lab will provide group specific / cross-matched red cells as required

Before transfusion

- Check patient ID
- Use wristbands

Blood loss >40% blood volume

- 1500–2000mls loss
- Pulse > 120, RR > 30
- Hypotensive
- Urine < 20mls/h

Prevent coagulopathy

Anticipate need for platelets and FFP after 4 units blood replacement and continuing bleeding
Give Primary Massive Blood Loss (MBL) Pack
Order Secondary Massive Blood Loss (MBL) Pack
Correct hypothermia
Correct hypocalcaemia (keep ionised Ca > 1.13mmol/L)
Contact Haematologist

Primary MBL pack

- Blood 5 units
- FFP 4 units

Secondary MBL pack

- Blood 5 units
- FFP 4 units
- Platelets
- Cryoprecipitate

Reassess and document

Get help to stop bleeding

Contact surgeons, gastroenterologists, obstetricians as appropriate

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Important phone numbers

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