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 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

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

Get help to stop bleeding

Before transfusion
• Check patient ID
• Use wristbands

Primary MBL pack
• Blood 5 units
• FFP 4 units

Secondary MBL pack
• Blood 5 units
• FFP 4 units
• Platelets
• Cryoprecipitate

Contact surgeons, gastroenterologists, obstetricians as appropriate

Contact Transfusion Laboratory

East of England Trauma Network
East of England Regional Transfusion Committee
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Reassess and document

Blood loss >40% blood volume

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

Important phone numbers