

CC 75-005 Blood Transfusions: Administration of Blood, Blood Components and Blood Products

Appendix 1

NURSING TRANSFUSION REACTIONS ALGORITHM

PATIENT EXHIBITS SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF A TRANSFUSION REACTION

1. **STOP THE TRANSFUSION IMMEDIATELY** and disconnect the tubing
 2. Keep IV site patent with 0.9% saline TKVO in different IV tubing
 3. Contact Physician/authorized prescriber for medical assessment **and to determine if transfusion should continue**
 4. Check vital signs at least every 15 minutes until stable (continuous monitoring if severe reaction)
 5. Check all labels, tags and patients identification band to determine if there is a clerical discrepancy.
- Verify:**
- A. The patients name and medical record number on the armband and blood tag match.
 - B. The patients ABO/RH type is identical/compatible to the unit ABO/RH type
 - C. The unit is not expired
- Physician/Authorized Practitioner will determine if transfusion should continue**

Serious Signs and Symptoms?

IF THE PATIENT DEVELOPS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- **ANY symptom within first 15 minutes of transfusion**
- Fever (38°C or greater **and** 1°C rise from baseline)
- Hypotension/shock
- Rigors/chills
- Unexplained anxiety or sense of 'doom'
- Back/chest pain
- Dyspnea/respiratory distress
- Tea colored urine (hemoglobinuria)
- Bleeding at IV site
- Nausea/vomiting
- Tachycardia/arrhythmias
- Generalized flushing
- Hives/rash covering more than ¼ of body
- Any feeling different than usual

Clerical Discrepancy?

- **DO NOT RESTART THE TRANSFUSION**
- Manage patient reaction as per authorized prescriber order
- Notify BTS and send the following immediately:
 - 1 red and 1 large lavender tube of blood
 - Completed Transfusion report/tag
 - Blood product and administration set/fluid
- Consider: (Tests as indicated by authorized prescriber)
 - Blood cultures
 - Diagnostic tests: Chest x-ray, ECG
 - Urine specimen

Minor Symptoms?

- Hives/rash **ONLY**
- Covering ¼ of the body or less.

- Temperature rise greater than or equal to 1°C and less than 38°C
- **AND** No other symptoms
- **AND** Onset greater than 15 min

- Temperature rise greater than or equal to 1°C from baseline and greater than or equal to 38°C **AND**
- Greater than 15min into transfusion **AND**
- **NO OTHER SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS**

- **BTS MUST BE NOTIFIED OF ALL SUSPECTED REACTIONS**
- **Upon authorized prescriber/authorized practitioner direction ONLY:**
 - Treat with Diphenhydramine 25-50mg IV or po for hives; acetaminophen 650mg po for fever.
 - Resume transfusion cautiously if clinical condition warrants and product is not expired (still less than 4hrs from time stamp on tag)
- Document assessment, interventions and patient's response on patients chart and transfusion tag
- Remain with the patient for the first 5 minutes after resuming transfusion then observe every 5 minutes for the next 10 minutes

If remainder of transfusion is uneventful, complete documentation on transfusion tag and return to BTS. *(However)*

If remainder of transfusion is uneventful send the following to BTS upon completion:

1. 1 red and 1 large lavender tube of blood
2. Completed transfusion tag
3. Blood component & administration set/fluid *(However)*

If any further signs and symptoms of reaction, **IMMEDIATELY** stop the transfusion. Follow serious signs and symptoms pathway

ENSURE THE MOST CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION IS DOCUMENTED ON TRANSFUSION TAG AND PATIENTS CHART

Think: Acute hemolytic, Severe Allergic, Anaphylactic/Anaphylactoid, TRALI, TACO or Bacterial Contamination

Think: Minor Febrile Non-Hemolytic or Minor Allergic Reaction

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