



Guidance for the Emergency Transfer of Blood and Components with Patients between Hospitals

Document Control Information

Author	Lutman, Polke	Author Position	Head of Clinical Service, CATS Coordinator
Document Owner	Polke	Document Owner Position	Coordinator
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Blood Transfer Advice for Clinical Staff

The aim of this document is to ensure we adhere to the guidance laid down by the NHS Blood and Transplant service (NHSBT) in relation to the ad hoc transfer of blood components between hospitals. (NHSBT guidance can be sourced online).

It is important that the same strict rules apply when handling blood products within the transport environment of the critically ill child.

If blood products for transfer are necessary please request from the DGH as early as possible in the stabilisation phase.

Good documentation of transfusions is essential in order that full traceability from donor to recipient is maintained and the cause of serious adverse events can be adequately investigated. A permanent record of the transfusion of blood components must be kept in the medical notes

Prior to transfer:

- When receiving blood products for transfer please ensure that the blood and blood components have been packed in a transport box following transfusion laboratory guidelines to ensure product quality and safety.
- If blood product anticipated for use during the transfer phase, it must be checked according to policy and attached ready to deliver.
- Ensure laboratory blood component transfer form is attached to the blood transport box
- Correct patient identification labels on patient (**local hospital ID bands in place**)
- That parental consent has been taken should the need arise
- Most importantly wastage of blood is minimised
- The Flying Squad Blood is always provided as: O Negative, CMV negative, Irradiated and <10 days old.

During transfer:

- Please ensure the transport box remains sealed unless blood is required for transfusion. Blood components must be transported appropriately to ensure that they are in optimum condition for use and that the cold chain audit trail is maintained.
- If blood is required during the patient's journey please ensure it is checked and transfused in accordance with local policy.
- Once opened, the cold chain has been broken and all the units must be transfused within 4 hours.
- If blood is removed for transfusion, please replace the lid.
- Blood is suitable for transfusion within the timeframe stated on the associated paperwork with the transport box, provided the seal is unbroken.
- Red cells and platelets must never be transported in the same collection box.

On arrival:

- When the patient arrives in the receiving clinical area, please ensure the transport box is handed over to the receiving staff member.
- Please state how much blood was transfused during the journey and any adverse events (if occurred).
- The responsibility for the blood now lies with the receiving hospital in line with their local policy.