

Informed consent for transfusion

What is informed consent?

Before any medical procedure is carried out, you (or a family member or carer) will be asked to give permission or consent.

To be involved in decisions about the potential need for transfusion, you must have enough information about your condition, the benefits, the risks and side effects to transfusion, and options you have including possible alternatives.

Be sure to ask questions if there is any part of your treatment that you do not understand.

When providing consent for blood, use the checklist to help you make an informed decision about your treatment.

What happens if it's an emergency?

In an emergency, there may not be time to discuss the need for you to receive a transfusion. However, the reasons for the transfusion should be explained to you when you are recovering. Where possible your transfusion will be discussed with your next of kin at the time.

Informed consent checklist

- I am aware of which blood products will be transfused
- I am aware of how the transfusion will be given and how long it will take
- I am aware of the expected benefits of a transfusion
- I am aware of the potential risks and side effects
- I have been made aware of potential alternatives

