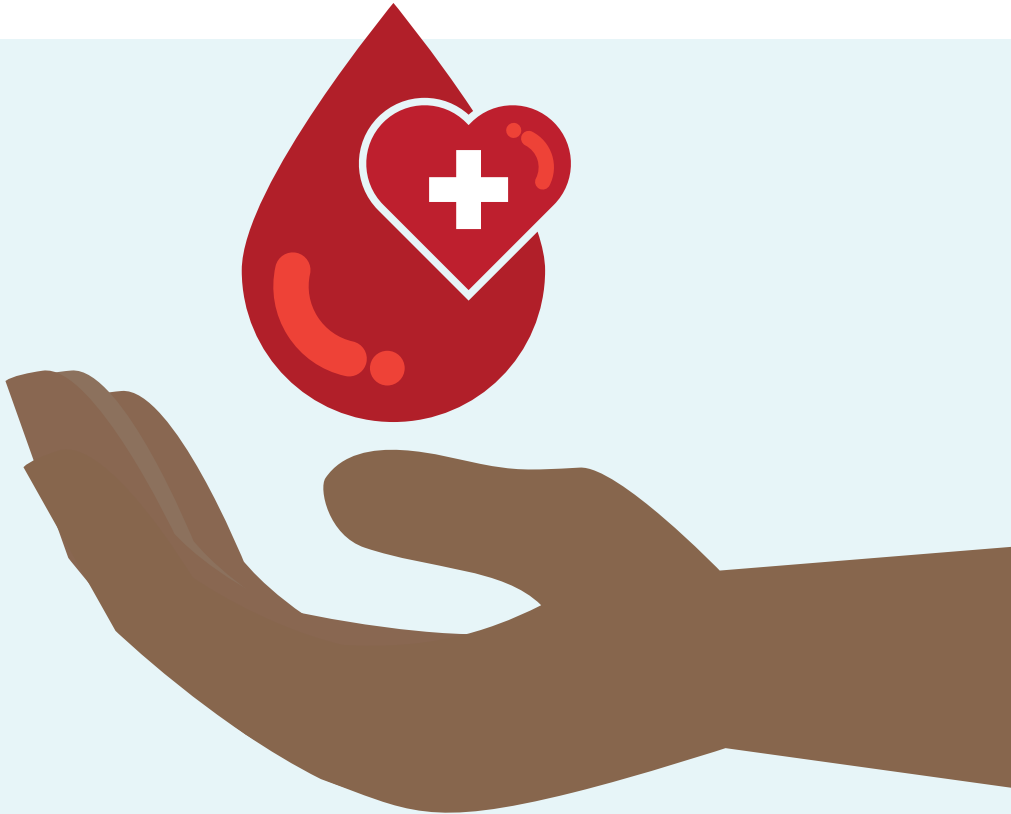




Government of **Western Australia**
South Metropolitan Health Service
Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group

Yarning about blood

Consent information for Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander patients



Your doctor says you need a blood
transfusion..... What does that mean?

What's in my blood?

Blood is made in the bones. Blood is made up of many different parts.

Red blood moves oxygen around the body (red blood cells)

Yellow blood (called Plasma) contains parts that help stop bleeding (platelets, fresh frozen plasma, cryoprecipitate)



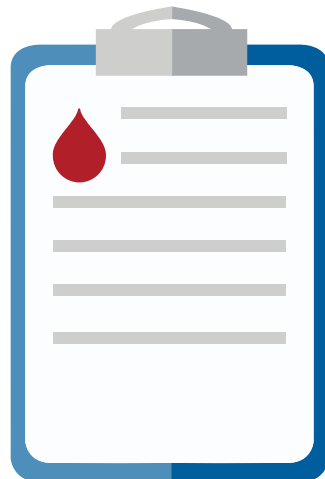
Why might I need blood?



- Bleeding from surgery
- Bleeding from accident
- Medications
- Diseases – cancer, kidney problems
- Pregnancy and childbirth

How do I know I need blood?

- Dizzy
- Tired
- Light headed
- Short of breath
- Bruising lots
- Wound not healing
- Loss of blood from accident/ surgery



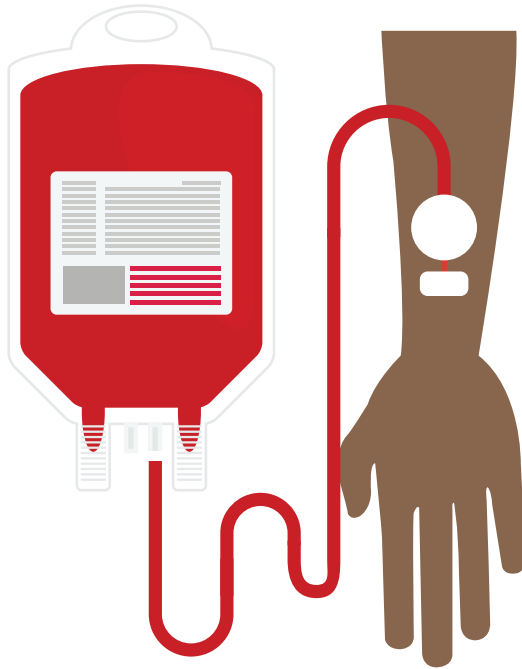
Is blood safe?

Blood in Australia is very safe.

Blood comes from Australians who are healthy.

All blood is tested for disease.

There are sometimes rare risks with getting blood. The doctor will discuss these with you.



What happens before I get the blood?

The doctor will talk to you about needing blood.

The doctors will help you decide if having the blood is best for you. They will do this by making sure the benefits to you are more than any possible risks.

You will need to sign a consent form before getting the blood.

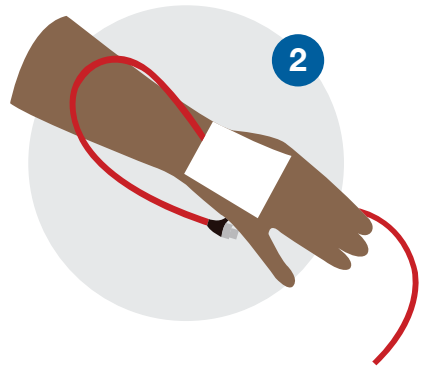


What happens when I get the blood?



The nurse will ask you to say your name and date of birth. This is to make sure you are the right person. The nurse will also put a name band on you.

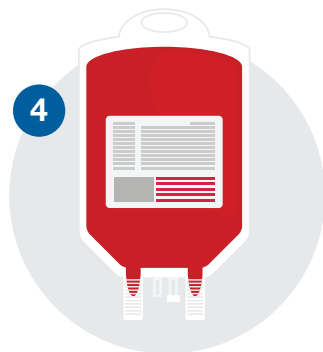
A small needle (cannula) will be put in your arm and a tube attached.





The nurse will ask you to say your name and date of birth to make sure the blood is for you. Don't worry if the nurse asks you to say your name a few times, this is part of making sure the blood is for you.

The nurse will check on you throughout the transfusion. They will check your blood pressure and temperature.



Your doctor will decide how long the blood will take to go into your body. Usually this is one to two hours.

How will I feel when I get the blood?

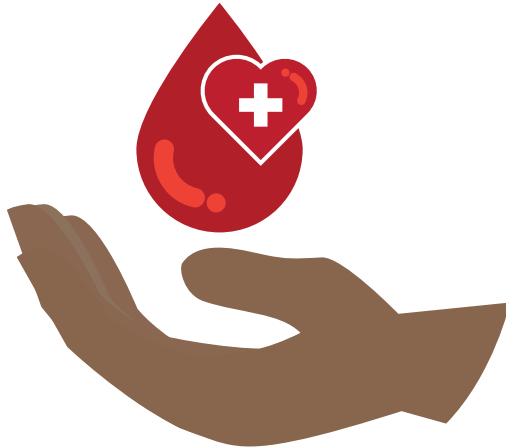
You should not feel any different when receiving the blood.

Some people can feel:

- hot
- cold/shaky
- heart beating fast
- itchy or see a rash
- tight throat.

Please tell the nurse if you feel any of these, or if you are not feeling well.

The nurse will check on you throughout your transfusion.



Other options

Sometimes other choices may be available.

If you are booked for an operation, another option is to have your blood checked with a blood test and then make it stronger before surgery.

Make sure you ask your doctor about what other choices you may have.



I have some questions



There are people that can help you:

Aboriginal Health Liaison Office

Fiona Stanley Hospital: 6152 2222

Fremantle Hospital: 9431 3333

(Available Monday – Friday
8am to 4:30pm)

www.mytransfusion.com.au – This website has information about getting blood.

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request.

Fiona Stanley Hospital

11 Robin Warren Drive Murdoch WA 6150

Email: fsh.generalenquiries@health.wa.gov.au

www.fsh.health.wa.gov.au

Helpdesk 6152 2222

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