

## **Going home after a blood transfusion**


During and immediately following a blood transfusion, your healthcare professional will carefully monitor you for any unexpected signs of a transfusion reaction.


*Although rare, a reaction can occur up to 6 hours after completing your transfusion.*

When you are discharged home, it is very important that you understand the signs and symptoms to be aware of and what action you should take if the situation arises.

You may experience an increase in the need to void as a result of medication given to you during a transfusion. It is important to be prepared for frequent bathroom visits for up to 4 hours after the transfusion.

The following is a list of symptoms that can develop up to **6 hours** after the completion of your transfusion.

 **Fever** – a persistent fever that does not respond to Tylenol or Advil

 **Rash with/without hives** that has not responded to antihistamine (e.g. Benadryl)

 **Chills/Rigors**

 **Headache and/or**  
**backache**

 **Nausea and/or**  
**vomiting**

 **Difficulty breathing**  
**and/or shortness of**  
**breath**

 **Blood in urine**

**You should notify your healthcare professional if you experience any of the symptoms listed above and believe that it is related to your transfusion.**

**If you feel this is a medical emergency, go to your nearest Emergency Room.**

## Notification of Transfusion

In accordance with the recommendations of National Standards for Blood Safety, Health Canada, all patients must be notified when they receive blood or blood components.

You will receive a notification letter approximately one month after the transfusion date which will indicate the month of transfusion and the component received.

If you wish to have a comprehensive transfusion record for your personal file, please feel free to use the table below to record the data.

Transfusion Date:	
Unit #	_____
Blood Type:	_____
Unit #	_____
Blood Type:	_____
Unit #	_____
Blood Type:	_____
Unit #	_____
Blood Type:	_____

*Going Home After A Blood Transfusion – What You Should Know*



*"Fostering the well-being of the people we serve"*