

# Advice for patients who have received a blood transfusion and are going home

Hospital Transfusion Team

This leaflet has been designed to  
give you important information  
about your condition / procedure,  
and to answer some common  
queries that you may have.



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# Information for patients and visitors

## Introduction

This leaflet provides important advice for patients who have had a blood transfusion and are being discharged from hospital less than 24 hours after the transfusion is completed.

## Are there any side effects from having a blood transfusion?

You recently received a blood transfusion in hospital. During this procedure you were observed for any signs of a transfusion reaction. Now that you are going home, you need to know that there is a very small risk of developing a delayed transfusion reaction. These are usually mild in nature and cause very few problems but it is important to report any unusual or unexpected symptoms to your doctor or nurse.

## What should I look out for?

Most delayed reactions occur within 24 hours of the transfusion but can, very occasionally, develop up to 14 days later. If you unexpectedly experience any of the following symptoms, please contact the ward or department where you had your blood transfusion. Alternatively, contact your GP as soon as possible. In the rare event of an emergency (life-threatening problems, for example difficulty with breathing) call 999 for an ambulance:

- A high temperature – feeling feverish, hot and clammy or shivering and chills
- Breathing problems or wheeziness
- Feeling sick or vomiting
- Swelling of any part of the body especially around the mouth, lips or face

- Extreme tiredness or generally feeling unwell
- Blood in your urine or passing much less, or very dark urine
- Itchy skin rash
- Pain in the limbs, chest or tummy, or in the lower back (loin pain)
- Unexpected or unexplained bruising
- Jaundice (yellow colour of the white of your eyes or skin)

## Why do I need to tell someone?

It is possible that a transfusion reaction can make you feel very unwell and if left untreated can become quite serious. You may need to be readmitted to hospital for further treatment.

## Contact details within the Trust for patients to obtain additional information

If you would like further information or advice about other aspects of blood transfusion, and / or your treatment please feel free to ask questions and discuss this with your doctor or nurse. Alternatively, you can contact one of the Specialist Practitioners of Transfusion on 01472 875616 or 01724 387888.

If you are interested in finding out more about blood transfusion generally and have access to the intranet, you may find the following website useful:

National Blood Service

[www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk)

National Patient Safety Agency

[www.npsa.nhs.uk/pleaseask](http://www.npsa.nhs.uk/pleaseask)



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## Concerns and Queries

If you have any concerns / queries about any of the services offered by the Trust, in the first instance, please speak to the person providing your care.

### For Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital

Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01472) 875403 or at the PALS office which is situated near the main entrance.

### For Scunthorpe General Hospital

Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01724) 290132 or at the PALS office which is situated on C Floor.

Alternatively you can email:  
[nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net](mailto:nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net)

## Confidentiality

Information on NHS patients is collected in a variety of ways and for a variety of reasons (e.g. providing care and treatment, managing and planning the NHS, training and educating staff, research etc.).

Everyone working for the NHS has a legal duty to keep information about you confidential. Information will only ever be shared with people who have a genuine need for it (e.g. your GP or other professionals from whom you have been receiving care) or if the law requires it, for example, to notify a birth.

Please be assured however that anyone who receives information from us is also under a legal duty to keep it confidential.

## Zero Tolerance - Violent, Threatening and Abusive Behaviour

The Trust and its staff are committed to providing high quality care to patients within the department. However, we wish to advise all patients / visitors that the following inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated:

- Swearing
- Threatening / abusive behaviour
- Verbal / physical abuse

The Trust reserves the right to withdraw from treating patients whom are threatening / abusive / violent and ensuring the removal of those persons from the premises.

All acts of criminal violence and aggression will be notified to the Police immediately.

## Risk Management Strategy

The Trust welcomes comments and suggestions from patients and visitors that could help to reduce risk.

Perhaps you have experienced something whilst in hospital, whilst attending as an outpatient or as a visitor and you felt at risk.

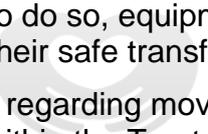
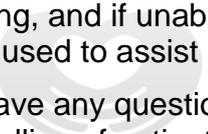
Please tell a member of staff on the ward or in the department you are attending / visiting.

## Moving & Handling

The Trust operates a Minimal Lifting Policy, which in essence means patients are only ever lifted by nursing staff in an emergency situation.

Patients are always encouraged to help themselves as much as possible when mobilising, and if unable to do so, equipment may be used to assist in their safe transfer.

If you have any questions regarding moving and handling of patients within the Trust,



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please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department you are visiting.

**Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS  
Foundation Trust**

**Diana Princess of Wales Hospital  
Scartho Road  
Grimsby  
01472 874111**

**Scunthorpe General Hospital  
Cliff Gardens  
Scunthorpe  
01724 282282**

**Goole & District Hospital  
Woodland Avenue  
Goole  
01405 720720**

[www.nlg.nhs.uk](http://www.nlg.nhs.uk)

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