

HEADING HOME AFTER A TRANSFUSION

There is a small risk of having a reaction to the blood when you have a transfusion. When you go home you need to watch for a possible reaction for the next few hours.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOTICE AFTER A BLOOD TRANSFUSION:

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A REACTION:

MILD SYMPTOMS:

Mild fever – temperature less than 39°C (102.2°F)

Mild chills

Mild headache

Mild rash, hives, itching

Do not take any of the medication below if your doctor has told you not to. Always follow the directions on the package.

A non-prescription medication for fever or headache like Tylenol® (acetaminophen) may help your symptoms go away.

A non-prescription medication for allergies like Benadryl® or Reactine® may help your symptoms go away.

If there is no change within 1 hour of taking medication follow the instructions below.



SERIOUS SYMPTOMS:

High fever – temperature of 39°C (102.2°F) or higher

Nausea or vomiting

Shaking (severe chills)

Problems breathing or feeling short of breath

Blood in urine or dark coloured urine (even a few days later)

Migraine or serious headache

Contact your doctor if you can or go to the nearest Emergency Department. Tell them you might be having a transfusion reaction. Do not drive yourself.

Go immediately to the nearest Emergency Department. Tell them you might be having a transfusion reaction. Do not drive yourself.

Transfusion reactions need to be recorded.

As soon as you can, please let _____ know at _____ so that your records can be updated.