WHAT TO EXPECT BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE TRANSFUSION

BEFORE TRANSFUSION

The doctor will:

- Speak to you about your need for a blood component transfusion
- Discuss the risks, benefits and transfusion options with you
- Give you some written information about blood component transfusions
- Ask you to sign a consent for transfusion form.

We will identify you by:

- Asking you to state your name and date of birth in full
- Checking these facts against your nameband and the specimen request form.

You will have blood samples taken

JUST BEFORE AND DURING TRANSFUSION

If you need to, please use the toilet before the transfusion commences.

Nursing staff will check:

- Your identification
- Blood component details.

Your pulse, temperature and blood pressure will be checked before and during the transfusion.

During the transfusion:

- Staff will keep a close watch on you
- You may eat and drink
- Move your arm as little as possible (the arm that has the transfusion running through it)
- A transfusion may involve more than one bag of blood.

Alert your nurse immediately if:

- You feel unwell
- You have any strange rashes
- You feel pain.

AFTER TRANSFUSION

Your pulse, temperature and blood pressure will be checked.

A doctor may be asked to check on you.

A blood sample may be taken the morning after the transfusion to check that your blood counts have improved.