

Metropolitan Referral Unit - Fact Sheet

Blood Transfusion – Hospital Avoidance

This fact sheet has been developed to assist referrers access Blood Transfusions in the community. This service is most commonly accessed by General Practitioners and Residential Aged Care Facilities as a hospital avoidance solution.

Blood Transfusion referral process

You will need:

- > Metropolitan Referral Unit (MRU) referral form
- > Medication Authority
- > most recent haemoglobin level
- > group and cross match/hold details
- > referring doctor's contact details and numbers that they will be contactable on for duration of transfusion in case medical advice required
- > approximate date of last transfusion
- > name of pathology organisation that will be providing blood products.

Complete the Referral Form including the following information:

- > haemoglobin (hb) level
- > reason for transfusion
- > statement that patient consents to blood transfusion procedure
- > group and cross match/hold, date of sampling and pathology company used as provider will coordinate blood product delivery with scheduled visit
- > approximate date of last transfusion
- > any known past reactions to blood transfusions, as this may exclude patient from this community-based service
- > any requirement for cannulation
- > doctors contact number on date of transfusion, this will enable clinician to contact with non-emergency matters
- > determine if patient/facility has supplies of diuretics, if ordered.

Complete the Medication Authority including the following information:

- > date of transfusion
- > transfusion product to be infused
- > number of units to be transfused
- > length of time for each unit required
- > intravenous (IV) diuretics if indicated. These are to be ordered in the home as we do not supply these.
- > normal saline flushes and priming of lines do not need to be ordered.

Forms and additional information can be found at: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/MRU

Please send above information to the Metropolitan Referral Unit and await service confirmation.

Service confirmations are sent between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm, 7 days a week including public holidays.

Additional resources

- Information about the MRU and referral forms – www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/MRU
- SA Health BloodSafe - www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/bloodsafe
- Australian & New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion Ltd Guidelines – anzsbt.org.au/guidelines-standards/anzsbt-guidelines
- National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (Second edition) – www.safetyandquality.gov.au/standards/nsqhs-standards

For more information

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Integrated Care Systems
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www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/MRU

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