



This is to inform you that during your time with Alberta Health Services, you have received a transfusion of blood and/or products that are derived from blood. If you have any questions about this, you can speak to your doctor or nurse.

Transfusion Reaction Information

What is a transfusion reaction?

A transfusion reaction can happen during or after a blood or blood product transfusion. If you have a reaction, you might not feel well.

It's rare to have a transfusion reaction. Most reactions happen within 6 hours of having a transfusion. Rarely, you can have a transfusion reaction up to 2 weeks after a transfusion. You can have a transfusion reaction even if you've never had a reaction to a transfusion in the past.

How do I know if I am having a transfusion reaction?

You may be having a transfusion reaction if you have any of the signs and symptoms below.

What to Watch For:	What to Do:
If you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel short of breath or have trouble breathing • Have swelling in your lips or tongue • Have wheezing in your chest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call 911.
If you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel very unwell • Have muscle pain • Have yellow skin • Have dark pee (urine) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See a doctor right away. • If you can't reach your doctor, go to the nearest Urgent Care Center or Emergency Department.
If you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have chills • Have (or think you have) a fever 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call Health Link at 811. • Take your temperature.
If you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a rash, hives, or itchy skin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call Health Link at 811.

Is there anything else I should know about?

If your doctor didn't give you any instructions about more blood tests or transfusions, call the doctor who ordered your transfusion within a few days to see if you need to do them.

If you had any of the symptoms listed above after a transfusion, tell your healthcare provider the next time you have a transfusion.

Contact Information

For general health information or symptoms, go to MyHealth.Alberta.ca or call Health Link at 811.

The APL Transfusion Safety Team may be reached at Transfusion.SafetyTeam@albertaprecisionlabs.ca.