

1 PRESCRIBING BLOOD COMPONENTS

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1.1 The Prescription of Blood Components
Section 1
Transfusion Medicine Protocols
Child & Adolescent & Women's & Newborn Health Services
Perth Western Australia

1.1 THE PRESCRIPTION OF BLOOD COMPONENTS

The prescription of blood and blood components is the responsibility of a doctor (or midwife or nurse practitioner licensed to prescribe blood components).

The prescription sheet shall contain the full patient identification details and specify:

- The type of blood component, including any special requirements (eg. Irradiation, CMV Neg, etc).
- The quantity.
- The duration of transfusion.
- Any special instructions (eg. Any medication required before or during the transfusion).

The prescription constitutes the legal instruction to administer the blood product.

The prescribing clinician shall also document the following in the patient's medical record:

- The transfusion decision rationale based on recognised clinical practice guidelines.
- The outcome of the transfusion including whether or not it achieved the desired effect and the occurrence and management of any adverse effects.

Consideration should be given as to the risks and benefits of transfusion and whether any alternative treatments are suitable.

A discussion should take place with the patient regarding Informed Consent for Transfusion – see Section 1.2