

1 PRESCRIBING BLOOD COMPONENTS

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1.5 Transfusion Risks
 Section 1
 Transfusion Medicine Protocols
 Child & Adolescent & Women's & Newborn Health Services
 Perth Western Australia

1.5 TRANSFUSION RISKS

Reference is made to the Australia Red Cross Blood Service (ARCBS) Data January 2006 - December 2007:
www.transfusion.com.au

RISK	INCIDENCE
Anaphylactoid Reactions or Anaphylaxis	1:20,000 – 170,000
Circulatory Overload	Up to 1% of patients receiving transfusions
Febrile Non-Haemolytic Transfusion Reaction	1% of transfusions. Most frequently in patients previously alloimmunised by transfusion or pregnancy
Haemolysis: Acute	1:12,000 – 77,000
Haemolysis: Delayed	1:4,000 – 9,000
Immune Modulation	Unknown
Infection: Bacterial (sepsis - platelets)	1:100,000
Infection: Other	Variable (vCJD Possible and cannot be excluded)
Infection: Viral	HIV 1: 35.2 million Hepatitis C 1: 3.2 million Hepatitis B 1: 1.9 million HTLV I and II < 1:14.7 Million
Iron Overload	Unknown, but should be considered with multiple transfusion, especially >20 units
Metabolic Complications incl.	Variable
Post-Transfusion Purpura	Rare
Transfusion Acquired Graft vs Host Disease	Rare
Transfusion Related Acute Lung Injury (TRALI)	1:5,000 – 10,000

These risks are very small compared with the risks of everyday living e.g. the chances of being killed in a road accident is about 1 in 10,000.