

## 1 PRESCRIBING BLOOD COMPONENTS

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1.5 Transfusion Risks  
Section 1  
Transfusion Medicine Protocols  
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 2007 - December 2009: [http://www.transfusion.com.au/adverse\\_events/risks/estimates](http://www.transfusion.com.au/adverse_events/risks/estimates)

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 Less than 1 in 1 million Hepatitis C Less than 1 in 1 million Hepatitis B Less than 1 in 1 million HTLV I and II Less than 1 in 1 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.