

## 7 ADMINISTRATION OF BLOOD COMPONENTS

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7.5 Blood Warmers  
Section 7  
Transfusion Medicine Protocols  
Women's & Newborn Health Services  
Perth Western Australia

### 7.5 BLOOD WARMERS

- The routine warming of blood is NOT necessary.
- Blood warmers should only be used when there is a significant risk of transfusion induced cardiac hypothermia flow rates of >50mL/kg/hour in adults and >15mL/kg/hour in children, exchange transfusion in infants) and when transfusing patients with clinically significant cold agglutinins.
- The requirement to use a blood warmer should be indicated in the clinician's prescription.
- When blood warming is clinically indicated, a specifically designed commercial device must be used with a visible thermometer and audible alarm that ensures that the blood is not warmed above 41°C. Blood warmers should be monitored and validated and undergo regular 12 monthly maintenance. They are extremely dangerous if they malfunction. If the temperature exceeds 41°C, discontinue the infusion and inform Blood Bank immediately.
- When used, the operating temperature of the blood warmer should be recorded in the patient's medical record.
- Blood MUST NOT be warmed by any other method.

Blood Warmers are available in

- Theatres
- ASCU
- Special Care Nursery
- Maternal Fetal Medicine