

CHRONIC ANAEMIA

Supporting information

This guideline has been prepared with reference to the following:

Carson JL, Stanworth SJ, Roubinian N et al. Transfusion thresholds and other strategies for guiding allogeneic red blood cell transfusion. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2016;10:CD002042

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD002042.pub4/full>

NICE. Blood transfusion. 2015. London. NICE

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng24>

British Society for Haematology. Diagnosis of B12 and Folate Deficiency. 2014

<https://b-s-h.org.uk/guidelines/guidelines/diagnosis-of-b12-and-folate-deficiency/>

Retter A, Wyncoll D, Pearse R et al. Guidelines on the management of anaemia and red cell transfusion in adult critically ill patients. *Br J Haematol.* 2013;160:445-64

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/bjh.12143/full>

Goddard AF, James MW, McIntyre AS, et al. Guidelines for the management of iron deficiency anaemia. *Gut* 2011;60:1309-16

<https://gut.bmj.com/content/60/10/1309>

Excessive or rapid transfusion can be harmful?

This may result in circulatory overloading, which produces "...a rise in central venous pressure, an increase in the amount of blood in the pulmonary blood vessels and a diminution in lung compliance" (Mollison, 1997). Pulmonary oedema soon develops if early warning signs are not recognised. In severe cases, left ventricular failure occurs (Davies, 1990). Of 355 transfusion-associated deaths in the USA between 1976-1985, 11% were attributed to circulatory overload (Sazama, 1990). The approximate risk has also been expressed as 1 case per 10,000 units transfused (Walker, 1987).

Davies SC, Brozovic M. ABC of transfusion: Transfusion of red cells. *BMJ* 1990;300:248-52

<http://www.bmj.com/content/300/6719/248.full.pdf+html>

Mollison PL, Engelfriet CP, Contreras M, (eds). *Blood transfusion in clinical medicine*, 10th ed. Oxford: Blackwell Science, 1997. p.307

Sazama K. Reports of 355 transfusion-associated deaths: 1976 through 1985. *Transfusion* 1990;30:583-90

Walker RH. Transfusion risks. *Am J Clin Path* 1987;88:374-8

Evidence Level: V

Last amended May 2022
Last reviewed October 2023