

Informed Consent: Information to engage in patient dialogue

Transfusion adverse events or risks can be characterized as: common but not life threatening, serious and life threatening requiring some prevention/treatment measures, and rare with life altering effects.

A synopsis is provided in the table below (for inclusive transfusion risk details, refer to [Bloody Easy Blood Administration version 3](#), pages 118-9).

Transfusion Adverse Events/Risks

Transfusion Adverse Event/Risk	Incidence/unit	Comment
Common, not life threatening		
Minor allergic reaction (urticaria)	1 in 100	- Generally, resolves with antihistamine
Febrile non-hemolytic reaction	1 in 300 (RBC)	- Generally, resolves with antipyretic
Serious and life threatening, requiring some prevention/treatment measures		
RBC alloantibodies	1 in 13	- All future RBC transfusions require antigen negative blood - Risk of acute hemolytic reaction with future transfusion - Risk of hemolytic disease of fetus/newborn for females with childbearing potential
Transfusion Associated Circulatory Overload (TACO)	1 in 100	- Pre-transfusion: assess for risk - Prevention: pre-transfusion diuretic, slow rate of infusion, single unit transfusion
Transfusion Related Acute Lung Injury (TRALI)	1 in 10,000	- Supportive care (oxygen, respiratory support, vasopressors)
Acute hemolytic reaction	1 in 40,000	- Unequivocal patient identification steps critical at sample collection and at administration
Anaphylaxis	1 in 40,000	- Close monitoring during transfusion, identify early, prompt medical treatment
Bacterial sepsis	1 in 250,000 (RBC)	- Close monitoring during transfusion, identify early, prompt medical treatment
Rare, life altering		
Transmission of hepatitis B	1 in 7.5 million	- Medical treatment
Transmission of hepatitis C	1 in 13 million	- Medical treatment
Transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	1 in 21 million	- Medical treatment

Durant E, Berta D. Using Blood Wisely aims to decrease inappropriate red blood cell transfusion practice. Canadian Nurse. [Internet] 2021 [cited 2021 Aug 16]; Mar 29, 2021. Available from: <https://canadian-nurse.com/en/articles/issues/2021/march-2021/using-blood-wisely-aims-to-decrease-inappropriate-red-blood-cell-transfusion-practice>