

Transfusion Reaction Information

What is a transfusion reaction?

A transfusion reaction can happen during or after a blood or blood product transfusion. If you have a reaction, you might not feel well.

It's rare to have a transfusion reaction. Most reactions happen within **6 hours** of having a transfusion. Rarely, you can have a transfusion reaction up to 2 weeks after a transfusion. You can have a transfusion reaction even if you've never had a reaction to a transfusion in the past.

How do I know if I'm having a transfusion reaction?

You may be having a transfusion reaction if you have any of the signs and symptoms below.

What to watch for:	What to do:
If you: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• feel short of breath or are have trouble breathing• have swelling in your lips or tongue• have wheezing in your chest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call 911.
If you: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• feel very unwell• have muscle pain• have yellow skin• have dark pee (urine)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See a doctor right away.• If you can't reach your doctor, go to the nearest Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department.
If you: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have chills• have (or think you have) a fever	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call Health Link at 811.• Take your temperature.
If you: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have a rash, hives, or itchy skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call Health Link at 811.

Is there anything else I should know about?

If your doctor didn't give you any instructions about more blood tests or transfusions, call the doctor who ordered your transfusion within a few days to see if you need to do them.

If you had any of the symptoms listed above after a transfusion, tell your healthcare provider the next time you have a transfusion.

For general health information or symptoms, go to MyHealth.Alberta.ca or call Health Link at 811.

Comments

This material is for information purposes only. It should not be used in place of medical advice, instruction, or treatment. If you have questions, talk to your healthcare provider.