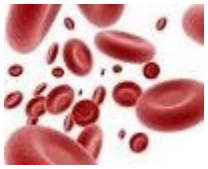

Paediatric Department
Wexham Park Hospital

Frimley Health
NHS Foundation Trust

Reviewed January 2015,
May 2018, May 2024
J Aspel (Consultant)
Next review: May 2027

Transfusion Thresholds for Paediatric Haematology/Oncology Patients

Trust transfusion policy can be found under Patient care / Transfusion https://ourplace.xfph-tr.nhs.uk/our-trust/trust-policies//
The Paediatric Haem/Onc POSCU folder on the Paediatric shared drive contains shared care guidance for supportive care

Always document the reason for transfusion
Always obtain and document consent on the transfusion prescription chart

Red Cells:

Top-up transfusion trigger (if asymptomatic) **Hb 7 – 8 g/L**

Prescribe and request in mls until the child weighs >20kg
15-20ml/kg will give a predicted 4-5 g/L rise in Hb
Transfusion rate for top up should not exceed 5mls/kg/hr
Transfusion of each unit should not exceed 4 hours from removal from blood bank
Using complete units allows maximum benefit from each donor exposure and avoids waste

Platelets:

Prophylactic platelet transfusion trigger **Plt <10 x10^9/L**

If Febrile **Plt <20 x10^9/L**

Prescribe and request in mls until the child weighs >20kg
Usual dose is 20mls/kg over 30 minutes
A single adult therapeutic dose (ATD) of platelets is sufficient for children >20kg
This Threshold **does not apply** to patients with active bleeding who should be transfused based on symptoms

Remember transfusions save lives but every time a child receives an extra transfusion they are exposed to an additional donor

Remember this is guidance. This document has been adapted from a document produced by the paediatric haematology/oncology department in Oxford.

It is sensible to plan where possible for blood product requests over the weekend. At Wexham we have to order blood from the National Blood Service in Oxford. There are now routine runs from NBS to Wexham Park at weekends once a day; an order would need to be in by 9.30am in order to guarantee same day delivery as part of a routine run.