

Blood, it's safer than it's ever been...

MYTH BUSTED

Bacterial contamination, incompatibility reaction and transfusion-related acute lung injury (TRALI) are still the most common and most immediately dangerous complications of blood transfusion.

SERIOUS RISKS

Non Infectious Risk		RISK PER UNIT USED (Unless otherwise specified)
Haemolytic reactions	Acute	1:12,000 to 38,000
	Delayed	1:4,000 to 12,000
Bacterial sepsis	Platelets	1:100,000
Anaphylaxis - IgA deficiency		1:20,000 to 50,000
Fluid overload / cardiac failure		Up to 1% of patients receiving transfusions
TRALI		1:5,000 to 100,000
Transfusion-associated graft vs host disease	RBCs	1:100,000 to 1,000,000

ARCBS Blood Component Information Guide (2014) * based on overseas estimates

Patients are often still concerned about the risk of Hepatitis or HIV from blood transfusions. However recent ARCBS statistics show us that the risks of contracting transmissible viruses is a rare occurrence in Australia.

VIRAL RISKS

Current estimated viral risks for Australian blood supply*

HBV	1 in 660,000
HCV	Less than 1 in 10,000,000
HTLV I and II	Less than 1 in 10,000,000
HIV	Less than 1 in 10,000,000

*CJD - Possible, not yet reported in Australia. Donors at risk excluded

*Data for risk of transfusion transmitted viral infections on ARCBS donations, calculated by the Australian Red Cross Blood Service, January 2005 to 31 December 2006

A recent review of incidents reported in IIMS, the NSW healthcare blood products shows that one of the most commonly reported incidents including wrong blood in tube (WBIT). The importance of correct product collection and labelling as well as the administration of transfusions.

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For more information about adverse reactions to blood transfusions go to:

www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au and www.transfusion.com.au



NSW HEALTH



Blood Myth #1