Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Urgent Care Center and Symptom Care Clinic Nursing Discharge Instructions: Blood Transfusion

This information explains nursing discharge instructions for a blood transfusion from the Urgent Care Center (UCC) or the Symptom Care Clinic (SCC).

Blood transfusion

If you have chest pain, **call 911** right away.

If you got your blood transfusion through a vein in your arm or leg, you may have some bruising, redness, or irritation where the needle was. If the bruising, redness, or irritation is painful or getting worse, call your healthcare team.

Blood transfusions can cause an allergic reaction up to 2 days after the transfusion. Call your MSK healthcare team or go to the nearest emergency room if you have:

- A fever of 100.4 °F (38 °C) or higher.

- Shaking chills.
- Redness and a warm feeling in your face.
- Hives, rash, or itching.
- Trouble breathing or shortness of breath.
- Lower back pain.
- Nausea (feeling like you're going to throw up) or vomiting (throwing up).
- Weakness or fainting.
- Dark-colored urine (pee).

Your care team may direct you to your regional Symptom Care Clinic (SCC) or the Urgent Care Center (UCC).

Follow up with your MSK healthcare team after discharge.

For more information, visit
www.mskcc.org/pe/blood_transfusion

You can search for information on this topic and many others in MSK's Patient and Caregiver Education library at
www.mskcc.org/pe

If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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