Blood Transfusion Bedside Checklist

Before each unit of blood is transfused, ensure you:

1) Check for blood component integrity
   – No clots, leaks, damage, discoloration or expiry

2) Check informed consent is documented
   – Reason & risk/benefits explained? Alternatives? Information given?

3) Confirm Positive Patient Identification (PPID)
   – Ask your patient to tell you their full name and DOB

4) Check unit tag against unit label, prescription, patient ID band and PPID
   – Are there any specific transfusion requirements?

5) Perform Observations
   – Baseline, after 15 minutes, end of transfusion & as per local policy

Now you may set-up your safe transfusion
Management of Suspected Acute Reactions

Symptoms/Signs of an Acute Transfusion Reaction
Fever, chills, tachycardia, hyper or hypotension, collapse, rigors, flushing, urticaria, bone, muscle, chest and/or abdominal pain, shortness of breath, nausea, generally feeling unwell, respiratory distress

*Action*: Stop the transfusion and call a doctor
- ABCDE assess
- Clinical review
- Treat symptoms
- Investigate transfusion reaction as necessary

Transfusion Durations
Ensure each red cell component is transfused within 4 hours of removal from storage. Platelets, FFP and Cryo transfuse over 30-60 minutes

Traceability
Comply with legal requirements and ensure traceability of all blood components

You must be trained and competency assessed to be involved in the blood transfusion process. It is your responsibility and a requirement of your NMC registration.