Is my blood transfusion necessary?

A blood transfusion should only be given if it is essential.

You might need a blood transfusion to replace blood lost in surgery, childbirth or after an accident, or to treat severe anaemia (lack of red blood cells).

There may sometimes be an alternative to receiving a blood transfusion.

**Blood transfusion and surgery**

It may be possible to collect your own blood lost during or after your operation and return this back to you.

**Iron deficiency anaemia**

You may be anaemic due to a shortage of iron - correcting this in time may reduce your chances of needing a transfusion.

Please ask your doctor or nurse if you have any questions about receiving a blood transfusion.

Further copies available from NHSBT.CustomerService@nhsbt.nhs.uk