

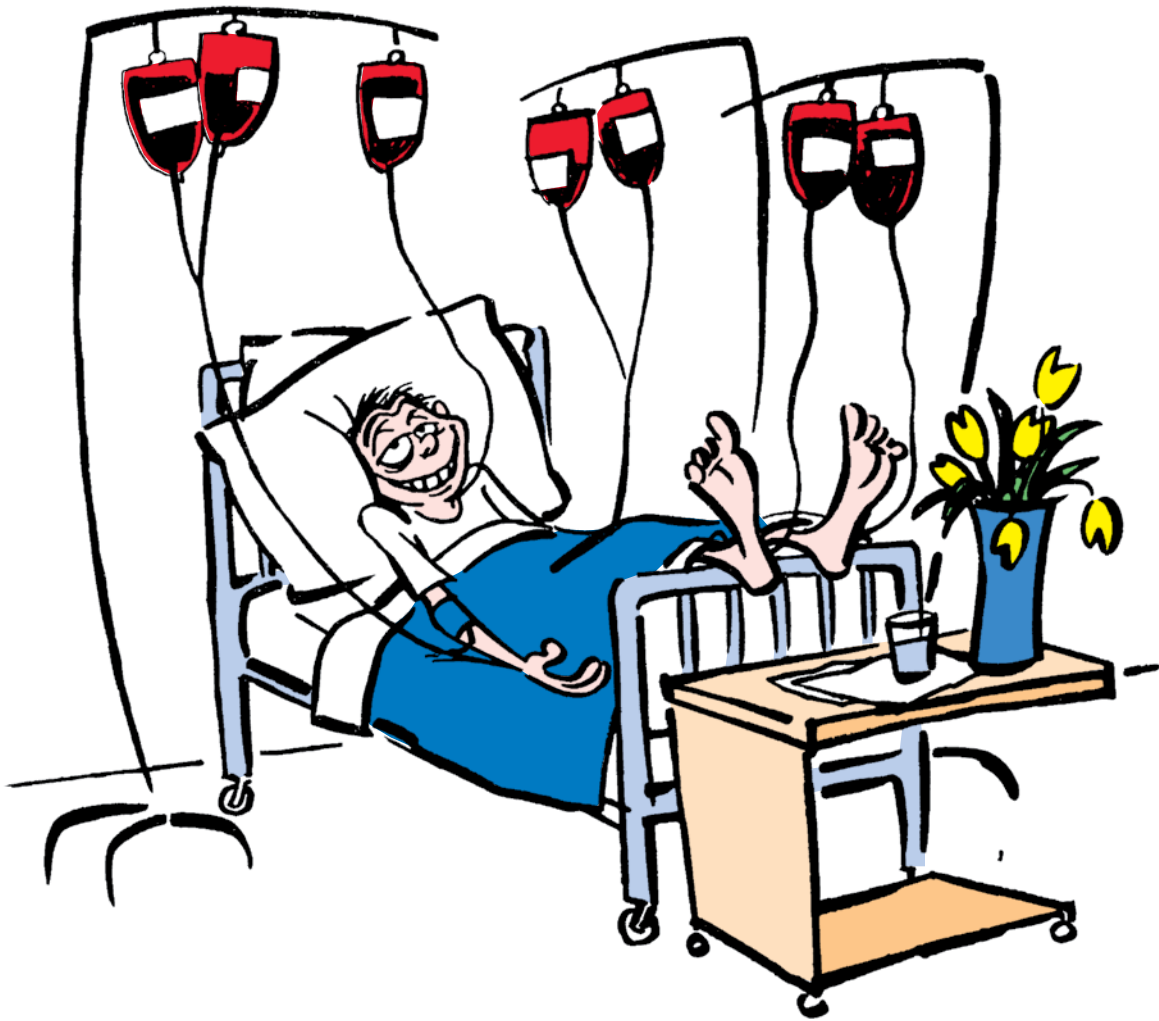
# Is my blood transfusion necessary?

**NHS**

*Blood and Transplant*

## 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](mailto:NHSBT.CustomerService@nhsbt.nhs.uk)