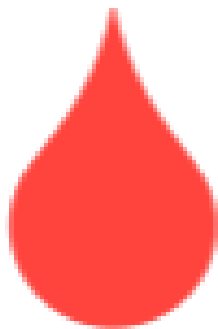


Blood Transfusion (Easy Read)



- We all need blood in our body to stay healthy.
- We have about 8 pints of blood in our body.

heart and veins



- Blood carries oxygen and food around our bodies.

nose bleeds



- Sometimes we can lose a small amount of blood for example a nosebleed.
- It is safe to lose a small amount of blood because our body can replace it.

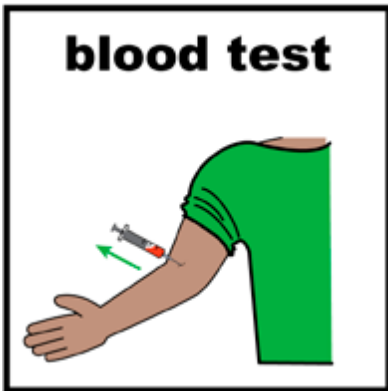
birth



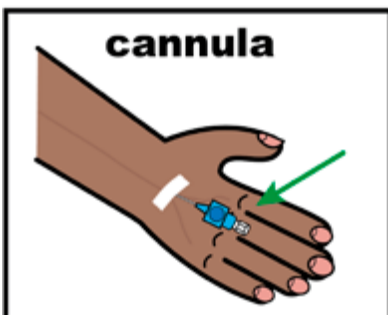
- There are times when you might lose a lot of blood;
- If you give birth.
- If you have an operation.
- If you have a bad accident.



- Losing too much blood is dangerous.
- If you lose too much blood it will need to be replaced.
- We can replace your blood by giving you a transfusion.
- The Doctor will tell you if you need a blood transfusion.
- The Doctor will ask your permission before you are given a blood transfusion.



- You will have some blood tests.
- This is to see what your blood group is.
- The people in the lab will carefully check your blood to make sure that it is the right group.



- The Midwife or Doctor will put a cannula in your hand or arm.
- The cannula attaches to a long tube and the blood will slowly flow through this.



- The blood comes in a clear plastic bag.
- There is nearly a pint of blood in the bag.
- You may need more than one bag of blood.



- The blood transfusion will take about 3 hours.



- Most people feel fine when they are having a blood transfusion.



- The Midwife will do observations before and during and after the transfusion.
- These observations include your blood pressure, heart rate, breathing rate and temperature.



If you feel

- Hot
- Shivery
- Have a rash
- Feel unwell

Tell the Midwife



- If you have any questions please ask the Midwife or Doctor.

images are copyright© LYPFT

This information can be offered in other formats on request, including a language other than English and Braille.

RD&E (Eastern Services) main switchboard: 01392 411611 NDDH (Northern Services) main switchboard: 01271 322577

For Royal Devon services log on to: <https://royaldevon.nhs.uk>

Smoking and second-hand smoke causes harm to patients and staff, and is not allowed on any Trust sites.

The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by Royal Devon staff undertaking procedures at the Royal Devon hospitals.

© Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Designed by Graphics (Print & Design), RD&E (Heavitree)