As most blood products come from other people, there is always a small risk of a reaction. A reaction is your body’s response to a foreign substance, such as blood or a blood product. During your transfusion, the nurses watch you for a possible reaction. But, some reactions may happen after you leave the hospital.

The most common reaction is fever. Your temperature may be raised and your face flushed; you may feel cold or have chills; you may cough. If you have these symptoms after you get home, call your doctor. Usually, acetaminophen (Tylenol®) will relieve these symptoms. Your doctor may also recommend treatment.

Another possible reaction occurs because of the extra fluid your body gets through a transfusion. This reaction happens more often in patients with heart or kidney disease. The signs include a pounding headache, a cough, chest tightness, or breathing problems. If this happens, you will usually feel better sitting in an upright position. If you have any of these signs, call your doctor, or 911 for help.

Be alert for signs of infection where the needle was put into your vein. Watch for pain, redness, swelling, and/or leaking fluid or pus. If you notice any signs, see your doctor right away.

Because each transfusion is different, you may have a reaction to one but not to another. Report any of the above reactions to your doctor.
Outpatient Transfusion Reaction Report Form

It is very important that the Blood Transfusion Service (BTS) is aware of any reaction you feel within 24 hours following your transfusion. If you need further transfusions, letting the BTS know about your symptoms may help in deciding on the best product for you. If you have any of the following symptoms, please fill out this form and return it to the hospital.

Name: ___________________________ Date of Birth: _________________

Date of Transfusion: _________________ Product: ______________________

- Chills
- Fever (if yes, what was your temperature?) _____ Date/time _____ ____ hrs
- Rash
- Hives
- Other symptoms ______________________________________

Did you call your doctor about these symptoms? Yes ____ No____

This form can be returned:

- In person
- by Fax: 604-244-5162
- by Mail: Blood Transfusion Service
  Richmond Hospital
  7000 Westminster Highway
  Richmond BC V6X 1A2
  Tel: 604-278-9711

For more copies, go online at http://vch.eduhealth.ca or email phem@vch.ca and quote Catalogue No. FC.160.Af891
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The information in this document is intended solely for the person to whom it was given by the health care team.
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