

## **Blood transfusion disadvantage**

Safe blood transfusions save lives ; patients in need would either die if blood was not available , or their recovery from a variety of illnesses or procedures would be prolonged. Many patients on long term therapy depend on safe blood transfusions for survival. However, although there is a tremendous benefit to receiving blood, transfusion unfortunately also presents risks to patients. The potential risks to the patient include accidental transfusion of the incorrect unit of blood, infection with a transmissible disease carried by the donor, or the patient may suffer any of a variety of other complications. Therefore, blood should be given only when needed to save life and reduce morbidity. A quality system should be in place in the transfusion service (and in the hospital), to standardize the recruitment and selection of safe donors, the safe collection of blood donations, the correct processing and thorough testing of blood donated, the management of blood stocks and its appropriate storage and transportation, the crossmatching of appropriate blood for patients, the correct identification of the recipient and the effective monitoring of the recipient during and after the transfusion. An effective quality system focuses on the critical control points of this transfusion chain, to maximize patient safety.