

COVID-19 and blood product transfusion at RCH

[Australian Red Cross Lifeblood has up-to-date information on COVID-19 and blood product transfusion](#)

Fresh blood product bags have semi-permeable membranes and cannot be wiped with any sort of alcohol wipe or antiseptic

The administration procedure for all fresh and batch products remains the same. See [Blood transfusion – fresh blood products procedure](#) and relevant batch product information (i.e. Albumin, Intravenous immunoglobulin, clotting factor concentrates).

As per the procedure, patients should be ready for transfusion before blood is requested; sight the consent, ensure the IV is patent and equipment ready, complete baseline observations and ensure staff are available to complete the bedside patient and blood product pre-transfusion checks.

In patients with suspected or confirmed Covid-19:

Only take blood products into the rooms of patients in isolation with confirmed or suspected COVID 19 when they are definitely required for immediate transfusion, take one unit/bottle at a time.

In the event that transfusion cannot commence;

- Discard the blood product locally in contaminated waste
- Notify the blood bank (x55829) that transfusion did not proceed so that the patient's laboratory record can be updated for traceability purposes

In the event of transfusion reaction;

- Follow the usual process for documentation of transfusion reaction
- Seek advice from the haematologist-on-call who will determine if the blood bag needs to be returned to blood bank
- If the blood bag is required for investigation, disconnect the IV line from the patient, place a sterile cap on the end of the IV line and place in biohazard bag with signage indicating suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient.

Albumex transfusion;

- Albumex can be stored in the patient room at room temperature and used up to its expiry date
- Discard at patient discharge if not used
- Notify the blood bank (x55829) that transfusion did not proceed so that the patient's laboratory record can be updated for traceability purposes

Blood Box use;

Blood Box (4 hour storage for just-in-case transfusion) must be kept outside the patient bedroom or theatre. Open and take the product to the patient only if transfusion is required.