



Blood transfusion reactions



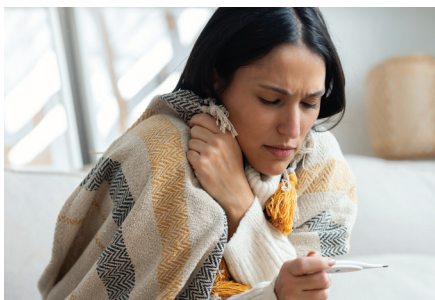
TO BETTER GUIDE YOU

 Several reactions can happen during or after a blood transfusion. It is important to recognize the symptoms and know when to tell your care team

During a transfusion: what to watch for

Tell the staff right away if you experience:

- Chills or fever (suddenly feeling very cold or very hot)
- Skin redness, itching, rash
- Pain in your back, chest, or near the transfusion site
- Unusual dizziness or sweating
- Difficulty breathing
- Nausea or vomiting
- Anxiety or feeling unwell



What to do?

- Tell the nurse right away so they can help you.
- Tests may be ordered, if needed 



Important

If you have questions,
call Info-Santé 811.

In an emergency, call 911.

Always mention that you have
had a blood transfusion.

After a transfusion: what to watch for

Symptoms may appear a few hours or a few days after the transfusion.

Tell your doctor or care team about them at your next visit.

Mild symptoms

- Low fever, mild chills, or a mild headache while otherwise feeling well:
 - Write down the time and your temperature.
 - You can take acetaminophen (Tylenol) 
- Skin redness or itching
 - An antihistamine may help; speak to your pharmacist

Severe symptoms

Go to the emergency department if you experience:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Fever higher than 39 °C (102.2 °F) or severe chills
- Any fever if you are undergoing chemotherapy (38.5 °C, or 38 °C for 1 hour)
- Blood in your urine or dark brown urine
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes)

If you have any other questions, speak to your care team.

Production: Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de la Montérégie-Centre, 2026 - Reproduction authorized with acknowledgement of the source.

Centre intégré
de santé
et de services sociaux
de la Montérégie-Ouest

Québec 



santemonteregie.qc.ca/ouest