

Risks of transfusion

- About 2 million units of blood issued by the UK Blood Service every year
- All risks from blood transfusion in the UK can be described to patients as very rare

Risk	Rate per unit	Reason	How risk is mitigated
Death and major morbidity	1:100 000 Risk of death	Fluid overload	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health care staff trained to identify patients at risk • Transfuse only when benefits outweigh risks • Single units are transfused where possible • Healthcare staff trained to recognise and monitor for signs of fluid overload
	1:20 000 Risk of major morbidity	Adverse Immune reactions	
		Human error	
HIV Hep B Hep C CJD	1 : 6.5 million 1 : 1.3 million 1 : 28 million Unknown	Transmission of Infectious disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donors carefully selected and blood screened