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 1:20 000 Risk of major morbidity	Fluid overload Adverse Immune reactions Human error	 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 Blood is carefully selected and tested by laboratory Staff are trained to identify such reactions and know what actions to take if one occurs Staff regularly trained and supported by an electronic system shown to improve patient safety
HIV Hep B Hep C CJD	1:6.5 million 1:1.3 million 1:28 million Unknown	Transmission of Infectious disease	Donors carefully selected and blood screened