

# Blood, it's free anyway...

## MYTH BUSTED

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service collects 900,000 red cell donations per year however it remains an inherently limited resource. In Australia only the donors give their blood for free. What happens thereafter is not free.

### THE TRUE COST OF BLOOD

The true cost of blood transfusion is yet to be determined but we know that it is at least \$200 per unit to process. This is gradually increasing as we include more safety tests.

There are several other costs involved in transfusion. These include: transportation, storage, laboratory testing and administering of blood to patients. In addition to this are the 'unknown' costs of possible adverse reactions and outcomes associated with transfusion.

Appropriate transfusion practice is essential for patient safety.

Remember – consider not just Hb, before transfusion.



**Hb < 70g/L**  
Lower thresholds may be appropriate for patients without symptoms and/or where specific therapy is available.



**Caution** associated with major blood loss or if there are signs or symptoms of impaired oxygen transport.



**Stop** Not likely to be appropriate unless there are specific indications.

For more information on the true cost of blood and transfusion go to:  
[www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au) and [www.transfusion.com.au](http://www.transfusion.com.au)



NSW HEALTH



Blood Myth #5