

Blood transfusion can save and improve lives. However it is increasingly clear that such therapy has limitations and the decision to transfuse must be made with great care. The transfusion process, by its very nature, also has the potential to be risky business – a source of preventable errors that can result in patient harm. The transfusion chain is linked by many players, all with a responsibility to both patients and blood donors to ensure safe and appropriate use, as well as helping maintain the sufficiency of a precious community resource.

In order to improve clinical transfusion practice an on-line education package has been produced. You can register, undertake learning and complete on-line assessment at [www.wch.sa.gov.au/bloodsafe](http://www.wch.sa.gov.au/bloodsafe).

**Topics covered** in this course include:

- Basic facts about blood transfusion and blood donation
- The risks and benefits of red cell transfusion, and the factors that should be considered when making the decision to transfuse a patient
- How to correctly collect and label a pre-transfusion blood specimen
- Picking up blood from a transfusion service provider or blood fridge
- Administering a transfusion
- Monitoring the transfused patient (including an overview of transfusion reactions)

**Health care professionals who may benefit** from this include:

- Medical officers
- Nurses and midwives,
- Patient assistants, couriers, porters and orderlies who collect and transport blood (restricted access to specific modules only)
- Laboratory and other health care staff who want to know more about clinical transfusion practice

Upon completion of each module staff will undertake a short **assessment**. When the assessment for all modules has been successfully completed a **certificate** will be emailed to the address provided at registration.

**In order to access** this program you will need:

- A high speed internet connection
- Adobe Flash® Player version 8 or higher. This is available free from the Adobe website at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)
- A valid email address. Your certificate will be emailed to this address upon successful completion
- Sound (speakers or headphones attached to your computer)

[www.wch.sa.gov.au/bloodsafe](http://www.wch.sa.gov.au/bloodsafe)