

# Think About Choosing One

**Transfusion Associated  
Circulatory Overload  
(TACO)**

**SNBTS  
Transfusion Team  
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# Reduce the risk of Transfusion Associated Circulatory Overload (TACO)



When authorising Red Cell Concentrate for transfusion to non-bleeding adult patients



# 'Think About Choosing One'



# National Transfusion Record or Risk assessed alternative

## For non bleeding adult patients

If the risk of TACO is identified and the risk of continuing with the transfusion outweighs the risk of not giving the transfusion then transfuse a maximum of one unit of Red Cells at a time and clinically reassess after each unit



### Consider the risk of Transfusion Associated Circulatory Overload (TACO)

#### 1. Consider if the patient has any of the following risks for TACO and tick as many as apply:

<input type="checkbox"/> Congestive cardiac failure, severe aortic stenosis, moderate to severe LV dysfunction?	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive fluid balance?
<input type="checkbox"/> Taking a regular diuretic?	<input type="checkbox"/> Receiving supplementary fluids either currently or in the last 24 hours?
<input type="checkbox"/> Pulmonary oedema?	<input type="checkbox"/> Peripheral oedema?
<input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory symptoms of unknown cause?	<input type="checkbox"/> Hypoalbuminaemia?
<input type="checkbox"/> Severe anaemia?	<input type="checkbox"/> Renal impairment?
<input type="checkbox"/> Other risk, please specify:	

If no, sign below and proceed.

If yes:

2. Does the benefit of the transfusion outweigh the risks? Yes  No

3. Can the transfusion be safely deferred? Yes  No

If proceeding with transfusion consider the patient's body weight before authorising the blood component, especially for low body weight adult patients, and consider prophylactic diuretic if medically indicated.

When authorising red cells authorisers should consider transfusion of a single unit for non bleeding patients and clinically reassess after each unit

**I confirm that the patient has consented to transfusion and I have undertaken a TACO risk assessment**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Designation: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Clinicians are asked to mitigate the incidence and occurrence of TACO in non-bleeding adult patients and promote Single Unit Transfusion, when authorising red cells for transfusion

## Think TACO

Think heart. Think lungs.  
Think fluid. Think **Transfusion  
Associated Circulatory  
Overload**. Think non bleeding  
patients. Think severe chronic  
anaemia. Think age. Think  
weight. Think build. Think  
gender. Think heart disease.  
Think renal failure. Think low  
albumin levels  
with peripheral oedema  
and significant  
positive fluid balance.

## Think About Choosing One



NHS  
National  
Services  
Scotland

**Red cell transfusion**

