**30-minute/4-hour rule**

**What does it mean?**

**‘30-minute rule’**

Start transfusion within **‘30-minutes’** or return to blood fridge

**Blood out of the fridge for**

**> ‘30 minutes’?**

Can still administer – move to the ‘4-hour rule’

1 Or as per your local policy. Some health services may stipulate 4 hours as the total allowable time to transfuse.

**‘4-hour rule’**

Transfusion **must**

be complete within

**30-minutes + 4-hours**1

**Remember**

* Blood should be commenced as soon as it arrives in

the clinical area (after pretransfusion checks).

* If blood is returned to storage after ‘30 minutes’, it will be discarded. If the blood is still required, do not return to storage. Instead, follow the ‘4-hour rule’ for transfusion.
* Untransfused blood must always be returned to blood bank or blood fridge for documentation of discard.

– If **any** part of the unit is administered, the unit is fated as transfused. Blood bank does not need to be notified, even if remainder of unit is discarded.

* Discuss the possibility of a rate change with medical staff to prevent the transfusion exceeding allowed time.
* Giving most of the unit may be enough to improve signs and symptoms of anaemia. Inform medical staff if unable to give entire unit in allowed time.

# **Reference**

Australian and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion 2019, [Guidelines for the administration](https://anzsbt.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ANZSBT-Administration-Guidelines-Revised-3rd-edition-Publication-Version-FINAL-20191002.pdf)  [of blood products, 3rd](https://anzsbt.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ANZSBT-Administration-Guidelines-Revised-3rd-edition-Publication-Version-FINAL-20191002.pdf) ed., ANZSBT, Sydney.

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To receive this document in another format, phone 03 9694 0102, using

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