

# TACO: TRANSFUSION ASSOCIATED CIRCULATORY OVERLOAD: Is your patient at risk?

## ASSESSMENT



Does the patient have pre-existing cardiac dysfunction?  
Is the patient on a regular diuretic?



Is the patient known to have pulmonary oedema?  
Does the patient have any respiratory symptoms of undiagnosed cause?



Is the fluid balance positive?  
Is the patient receiving continuous IV fluids (current or within last 24 hours)?  
Is there any peripheral oedema?

## MONITORING

Signs and symptoms of TACO –what to watch for:



- Dyspnoea, SOB
- Orthopnoea
- Cyanosis
- Tachycardia
- Pedal oedema (foot swelling)
- Hypertension
- Rales on auscultation
- Chest tightness
- Dry cough
- Positive fluid balance
- Pink, frothy sputum

## PREVENTION

If YES to any of the above:

- Review the need for transfusion, should/can it be deferred?
- Transfuse one unit and review.
- Administer at a slow rate.
- Measure the fluid balance.
- Consider a prophylactic diuretic.
- Monitor the patient closely

## TREATMENT

If signs and symptoms occur:



- **STOP** the transfusion
- Assess patient
- Emergency call if meet criteria
- Contact the medical officer
- Treat the patient as directed
- Report via usual hospital mechanisms

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/bloodmatters/>

Based on SHOT TACO checklist 2015