



# BLOOD TRANSFUSION GUIDELINES

Only transfuse in the following circumstances (also see Iron Deficiency Anaemia in Pregnancy Guideline):

- If Hb <7g/dl after 37 weeks and symptomatic – consider transfusion of red packed cells and continue oral iron supplementation
- If anaemic at delivery (Hb <9.5g/dl)
  - IVI access
  - Type/screen red packed cells
  - If caesarean section discuss need for transfusion with anaesthetist
  - Active management of third stage
  - Postpartum transfusion only if risk of bleeding, cardiac compromise or symptoms requiring urgent attention. Alternatively consider oral or IVI iron
- Check post-natal Hb if postpartum haemorrhage >500ml, uncorrected anaemia antenatal or symptomatic

## References

1. Adam, S. & Soma-Pillay, P. 2018. Obstetric Essentials. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. University of Pretoria

## Authorship

**These guidelines were drafted by a clinical team from Mediclinic and were reviewed by a panel of experts from SASOG and the BetterObs clinical team. All attempts were made to ensure that the guidance provided is clinically safe, locally relevant and in line with current global and South African best practise. Succinctness was considered more important than comprehensiveness.**

**All guidelines must be used in conjunction with clinical evaluation and judgement; care must be individualised when appropriate. The writing team, reviewers and SASOG do not accept accountability for any untoward clinical, financial or other outcome related to the use of these documents. Comments are welcome and will be used at the time of next review.**

**Released on date: 2019 12 05**