Algorithm: Suspected Transfusion Reaction

Clinical Signs and Symptoms of a Transfusion Reaction

1. **STOP TRANSFUSION IMMEDIATELY**; maintain IV access with 0.9% sodium chloride.
2. Assess recipient and check vitals signs (Q15 min until stable).
3. Perform clerical check.
4. Notify health care provider; request assessment if indicated.
5. Notify TML

Assessment by Health Care Provider

- **Minor Symptoms**
  - Mild rash <2/3 body surface area, pruritis, urticaria, flushing
  - Temperature ≥ 38°C and < 39°C, and > 1°C above baseline; no other symptoms
  - **Diphenhydramine** 25-50 mg IV or PO
  - **Restart Transfusion**
  - **Directly observe for 15 minutes after transfusion resumed**

- **Serious Symptoms**
  - Temperature ≥ 38°C and < 39°C, and > 1°C above baseline; no other symptoms
  - Rigors
  - Chest/back pain
  - Dyspnea, SOB
  - Hypotension/shock
  - Nausea/vomiting
  - Temperature ≥39°C
  - Tachycardia/arrhythmias
  - Generalized flushing or anxiety
  - Severe and/or extensive rash/hives over > 2/3 of body surface area
  - **Acetaminophen** 325-500 mg PO
  - **Restart Transfusion**

Clerical Discrepancy - Incompatibility

- **DO NOT Restart Transfusion!**
  - Send to TML:
    - Post transfusion blood samples
    - Transfusion/Issue card
    - Un-transfused implicated component or product
  - Consider:
    - Blood cultures/product cultures
    - Chest x-ray

**Algorithm Details**

- **Version**: 2
- **Effective**: 2014-12-12