

# 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

Clerical Discrepancy - **Incompatibility**

#### Minor Symptoms

#### Serious Symptoms

Mild rash <2/3 body surface area, pruritis, urticaria, flushing

Temperature  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $< 39^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and  $> 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  above baseline; no other symptoms

Rigors  
Chest/back pain  
Dyspnea, SOB  
Hypotension/shock  
Nausea/vomiting  
Temperature  $\geq 39^{\circ}\text{C}$   
Tachycardia/arrhythmias  
Generalized flushing or anxiety  
Severe and/or extensive rash/hives over  $> 2/3$  of body surface area

**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

Diphenhydramine  
25-50 mg IV or PO

Restart Transfusion

Acetaminophen  
325-500 mg PO

Restart Transfusion

Directly observe for 15 minutes after transfusion resumed