

Blood Transfusions

A plan generally provides for the administration of blood to be a covered expense, but not the cost of the blood itself.

Blood Transfusion

The term *blood transfusion* refers to the procedure of transferring human blood or a component of human blood from a donor to a recipient.

The transfusion expense may appear in relation to claims which include the following circumstances:

- An acute loss of blood has occurred due to hemorrhage or injury.
- Marked blood loss is anticipated during surgery.
- Symptoms such as anemia or bone marrow dysfunction are indicated.

Charges relative to blood transfusions fall into the following categories.

- Expense for actual whole blood which has been administered to the patient.
- Expense for actual blood components which have been administered to the patient.
- Expense for typing and crossmatching of blood and related laboratory expenses. These guidelines are performed to assure that the blood of the donor is compatible with the blood of the recipient. If transfused blood is not compatible a serious, even life threatening, situation could occur.

Blood Costs

The following terminologies may be used in billing for blood or blood components:

- **Whole Blood**
- **Red Blood Cells (RBC's)**
 - Packed red cells.
 - Packed frozen red cells.
 - Frozen thawed red cells.
 - Washed red blood cells.
 - Leukocyte poor red blood cells.
 - Packed cells.
- **Plasma**
 - Plasma derivatives.
 - Plasma protein fraction.
 - Plasma concentrate.
 - Fibrinogen (a protein present in plasma).
- **Platelets**
 - Platelet concentrate.

- **Cryoprecipitated Antihemophilic Factor**
(AHF, factor VIII).
- **Leukocyte** (a white blood cell).
- **Granulocyte cells** (a type of white blood cell).

Charges for these items should be excluded from the amount considered for benefits.