

Assessed for eligibility

Excluded when:

- Wish against transfusion **OR**
- Previous SAR with blood products **OR**
- Acute coronary syndrome **OR**
- Presence of life threatening bleeding **OR**
- RBC transfusion during current ICU admission **OR**
- Withdrawal from active therapy or brain death
- Acute burn injuries regardless of severity or total burn surface area
- Lack of informed consent (depending on national law)

Included when:

- Patient in the ICU **AND**
- Age ≥ 18 years **AND**
- Fulfil the criteria for septic shock **AND**
- Have Hb ≤ 9 g/dl (5.6 mM) **AND**
- Consent obtainable from patient or proxy

Enrolment

NO

YES

Randomisation

Allocation:

Until discharge from ICU, death or day 90 from randomisation

Transfused when Hb ≤ 7.0 g/dl (4.3 mM)

Pt transfused with 1 RBC unit at a time followed by new Hb point of care testing within 3 hours or before another transfusion is initiated.

Transfused when Hb ≤ 9.0 g/dl (5.6 mM)

Pt transfused with 1 RBC unit at a time followed by new Hb point of care testing within 3 hours or before another transfusion is initiated.

Discharge from ICU

Follow-Up

Primary outcome :

Mortality at day 90

Secondary outcome :

Mortality at 28-day and 6 months and 12 months

Life support at day 5, 14 and 28 post-randomisation

Severe adverse reactions

Ischaemic events in the ICU

Length of stay in ICU and hospital

Days in need of life support among survivors

Health-related quality of life