



Equipment Required:

- Unit of red cells
- Zip lock bag
- Clean bowl/tray to act as a water bath to warm the product
- Thermometer
- Filtered giving set
- IV catheter – largest gauge possible for the patient



Figure 1: Red cells are placed in a protective waterproof zip lock bag and are warmed to room or body temperature in a water bath of no more than 37°C



Figure 2: PRBC's should be removed from the protective bag and one of the administration ports on the red cell bag should be accessed by tearing the protective cover.



Figure 3 a b and c: A filtered giving set is removed from its outer packaging and prepared for use by closing off the in-line C clamp and the drip wheel. Note the chamber drip rate at this time (a standard filtered giving set will usually be 20 drops/ml).



Figure 4: The insertion spike is unsheathed in an aseptic manner.



Figure 5: Firmly push the insertion spike into the bag of red cells via the port



Figure 6: The insertion spike has now breached into the bag of red cells; this bag of red cells must be used within 4 hours.



Figure 7: Hang the bag of red cells from a drip stand in order to prime it ready for use.



Figure 8: The in-line clamp should be released and the drip wheel slowly released to allow the blood to flow into the administration set.



Figure 9 a and b: The filtered drip chamber should be filled to above the filter but not so full that the drip rate cannot be seen.



Figure 10 a and b: The tubing is fully primed with no air remaining and at this point the end of the giving set can be uncapped and attached to the patient's catheter in a aseptic manner. The transfusion can be initiated.

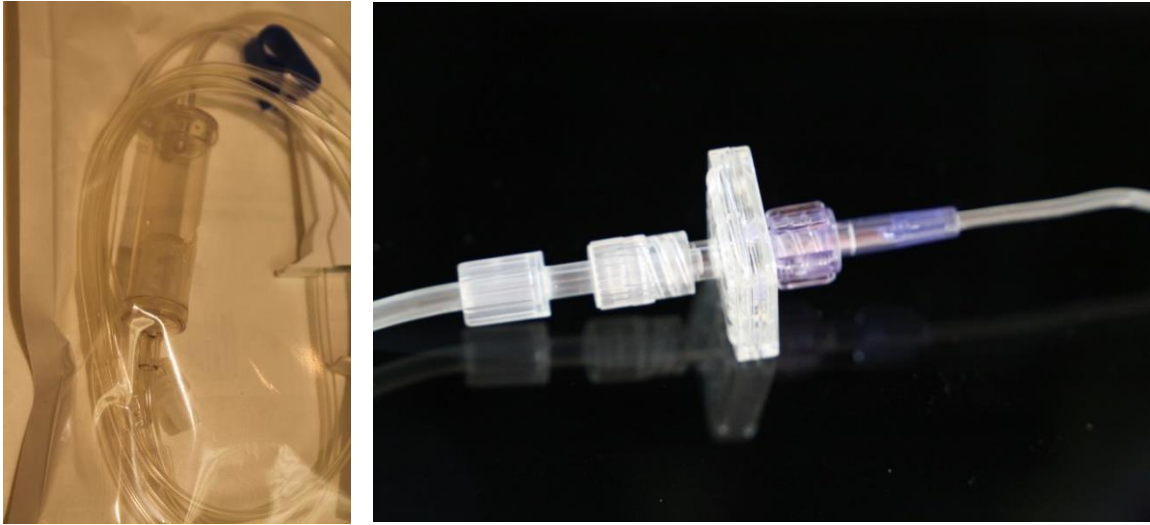


Figure 11 a and b: All blood products should be administered through a microaggregate filter (normally 170-260 micron) to facilitate removal of any small clots and other debris that may be present. These filters may be present within the lines of blood giving sets as in Figure 11 (a) or may be attached separately as an in-line filter (such as Hemo-Nate® filters) Figure 11 (b), if using a syringe for the transfusion. This is more common in cats and small canine patients.