

## Critical Anemia

If the patient has underlying heart disease:

- Yes = transfusion threshold is 90 g/L
- No = transfusion threshold is 70 g/L

If the patient is **asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic** despite meeting transfusion threshold:

- Treat underlying cause of anemia (i.e. menorrhagia, malnutrition) and/or refer to specialist (i.e. hematology, gastroenterology, nephrology)
- Start oral iron supplementation
- Refer to internal medicine (covered under MSP) for iron sucrose infusion, or a private infusion clinic (not covered by MSP) for a monoferric iron infusion, **IF** patient fails to tolerate oral iron

**Refer to the ED** for emergent assessment if:

- Patient is **symptomatic** (chest pain, short of breath with exertion, pre-syncope) with hemoglobin **lower than their transfusion threshold**, or with **evidence of rapid hemoglobin decline/bleeding**

## Resources

- [Anemia – Diagnosis](#)
- [Anemia – Treatment](#)
- Private infusion clinics:
  - [Inomar West Vancouver](#)
  - [Mainline Wellness Vancouver](#)

