

Blood Bank Change for First Time RBC Transfusions



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In order to provide the safest blood product transfusions for our patients and to comply with updated AABB Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services, patients receiving blood transfusions for the first time at UVM Medical Center Blood Bank will require two ABO typings from separately drawn specimens. The second determination of ABO may come from a historic record on file in the Blood Bank or may come from a second, current specimen. Until the ABO group has been determined twice, only group O uncrossmatched RBC units will be issued. This policy does not apply to neonates (under the age of 4 months).

Having a prior ABO type in our records to compare against a current ABO type before giving blood transfusions significantly reduces the risk of giving ABO incompatible RBCs to a patient due to sample labeling or patient identification errors. Many of our patients already have been ABO/Rh typed previously and they will not require a second sample to be drawn. The Blood Bank will notify nurses or ordering providers if a second sample is needed when reviewing crossmatch (prepare) orders for RBC unit(s). If a second sample is needed, they will ask that an order for an “ABO/RH” specimen be placed. There is no change to the existing policy concerning a current Type & Screen specimen: a current (in-date) Type & Screen specimen is always required to receive crossmatched RBC units.

For new patients, until the ABO group has been determined twice by the Blood Bank, only group O uncrossmatched RBC units may be issued. A second ABO/Rh determination, once the specimen is received in the Blood Bank, can be performed within 10 minutes. Once completed, group specific RBC units can be crossmatched for the patient (e.g. group A RBC unit to a blood group A patient).

If RBC units need to be urgently transfused before all testing is complete, our current policy and procedure will be followed:

1. Call the Blood Bank and order “Emergency Release Uncrossmatched” products
2. The Emergency Release Uncrossmatched Order form needs to be completed over the phone with the Blood Bank technologist at the time the order for blood is being placed
3. The completed form will be sent to Health Information Management
4. Then, scanned into the patient’s electronic medical record and sent to the ordering provider for signature

WHO IS AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT A BLOOD BANK SPECIMEN?

Anyone authorized to collect blood samples can now collect laboratory specimens for Blood Bank.

LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR A BLOOD BANK SPECIMEN

- Patient's legal name
- Patient's UVMHC medical record number (MRN) and/or date of birth (DOB)*
- Date and time of collection
- Signature/initials of collector or tech code (if available)

*Three unique patient identifiers, full name and MRN and DOB, are preferred.

If you have specific questions about this policy change, please call the Blood Bank (847-3569).

WHAT KIND OF COLLECTION TUBE (PREFERRED) SHOULD BE USED FOR A BLOOD BANK SPECIMEN?

Adult: 6mL pink top, EDTA tube

Pediatric: 5mL lavender (purple), EDTA tube

Cord Blood: 10mL plain red top, serum tube (no gel)

Neonates: Two (2) capillary tubes, red or lavender

WHERE DO I SEND THE BLOOD BANK SPECIMEN?

The Blood Bank is located in East Pavilion Level 1 (EP-1). Blood Bank specimens can be delivered directly to the Blood Bank by hand, by pneumatic tube (station #31), or by courier.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET RESULTS ONCE BLOOD BANK RECEIVES THE SPECIMEN?

STAT Type & Screen specimen: 1 hour

STAT ABO/RH specimen: 10 minutes

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Laboratory Customer Service or email the Lab Ambassadors for clinical questions.

PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY MEDICINE

111 Colchester Avenue
Mail Stop: 233MP1
Burlington, Vermont 05401

PHONE LABORATORY CUSTOMER SERVICE

(802) 847-5121
(800) 991-2799

LAB AMBASSADOR EMAIL

FAX LABORATORY CUSTOMER SERVICE

(802) 847-5905

WEBSITE

www.UVMhealth.org/MedCenterLabs

