Document History:

Title: Emergency Issue of Donor Red Cell Units – Non Trace Line/ Non Crossmatch Facilities

Site(s): Diagnostic Services

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Signature: [Signature]

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Details of Recent Revision
- 2.1, changed O Rh positive to O Rh negative
- 4.2, changed bullet to 4.2.3
- 4.3.1, added 2 notes regarding selection of Rh red cells
- Replaced “attending” physician with “ordering” physician throughout

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Emergency Issue of Donor Red Cell Units-Non-Trace Line/ Non-Crossmatch Facilities

1.0 Principle

To issue group O unmatched donor red cell units in an emergency when time does not permit a type and screen and/or crossmatch.

2.0 Scope and Related Policies

2.1 At a minimum, group O Rh negative red cells shall always be available for emergency use in facilities where obstetrical care and/or dialysis is provided:

2.1.1 The emergency unit(s) shall be stored in a separate, clearly labelled area in the controlled blood bank refrigerator.

2.2 A pre-transfusion blood specimen shall be drawn prior to the transfusion of unmatched group O red cells whenever possible.

2.3 Units shall have a conspicuous label clearly indicating compatibility testing has not been completed.

2.4 Transfusion records shall include a signed declaration by the ordering physician/authorized practitioner confirming the clinical situation was sufficiently urgent to justify releasing blood products prior to completion of pre-transfusion testing.

2.5 Should a red cell unit(s) be issued before compatibility testing is complete, and subsequently proven to be incompatible, the ordering physician/authorized practitioner and the TM physician on-call shall be informed immediately. Transfusion of incompatible unit(s) shall be stopped immediately and discontinued pending the decision of the ordering physician/authorized practitioner.

3.0 Materials

Group O Rh positive or group O Rh negative donor red cell units tagged with emergency red cell tag
Request form for crossmatch
Patient specimen
Record of Transfusion (ROT)
Job Aid: Emergency Issue Donor Red Cells- Non Trace Line/Non Crossmatch Facilities
4.0 Procedure

Note: For non-testing Trace Line sites refer to Trace Line Procedure: Emergency Issue Uncrossmatched Red Cells and Emergency Plasma Components in Trace Line

Emergency issue of unmatched group O red cells will be given priority

4.1 Collect a specimen from the patient and send STAT to BTS laboratory supplying stock emergency red cells (i.e. Trace Line testing site or CBS crossmatch lab)

Note: If stock emergency red cells were supplied by a Trace Line hub site (non-testing site) send sample to CBS crossmatch lab

- It is preferable to collect the specimen prior to transfusion of the emergency red cells

4.2 Obtain available patient information:

4.2.1 Check the Antibody Notification binder to determine if patient has pre-existing antibodies

4.2.2 Notify the ordering physician/authorized practitioner immediately if the patient has a letter on file

4.2.3 It is the ordering physician’s responsibility to determine if the emergency transfusion will proceed or if the transfusion can wait for crossmatched blood to be made available

4.3 Select and visually inspect appropriate emergency red cell units. Refer to INV procedure: Visual Inspection of Blood, Blood Components and Derivatives and INV procedure: Selection of Blood and Blood Components for Transfusion

4.3.1 When both group O Rh positive and group O Rh negative units are available select:

- Group O Rh negative if the intended recipient is:
  - Female less than or equal to 45 years of age
- Group O Rh positive if the intended recipient is:
  - Female greater than 45 years of age
  - Male (any age)

Note: If time allows for review of patient’s file in Trace Line prior to issue, look for protocols. For example, if patient is male, Rh negative and has an anti-D, issue Rh negative units, if available. If Rh negative units are not available, inform the ordering physician who will make the final decision regarding transfusion.

Note: If group O Rh positive red cells are not available, group O Rh negative red cells may be substituted

4.3.2 When only group O Rh positive units are available:

- Notify the BTS laboratory
- The BTS laboratory will notify the TM physician on-call within 24 hours if the recipient is determined to be Rh negative and is a female less than or equal to 45 years of age
- Administration of Rh immune globulin will be determined by the TM physician on-call after consultation with the ordering physician/authorized practitioner. This consultation shall be documented by the TM physician on-call.

Note: For females ≤45 years of age, group O Rh positive units may be used. Alert the ordering physician/authorized practitioner only group O Rh positive units are available; the ordering physician/authorized practitioner will accept responsibility for the transfusion. Blood bank is not required to consult the TM physician on-call.
4.4 Record the patient information, if available, on the following:
   • Emergency uncrossmatched red cell tag attached to the red cell unit
   • ROT
   **Note:** The BTS laboratory supplying the emergency red cells will have recorded the donor red cell unit blood group, donor red cell unit donation number and the group confirmed (by and date) on the tag.

4.5 Remove at least 2 segments from the red cell unit(s) prior to issue for post-transfusion crossmatch:
   • Affix donor unit label from the red cell unit to the segments
   • Bag and store in controlled storage refrigerator

4.6 Issue the red cell units:
   • For non-Trace Line sites refer to INV Procedure: Issuing Blood and Blood Components/Return within a Facility of Previously Issued Blood and Blood Components

4.7 Complete the appropriate blood bank log with as much information as is available or becomes known:
   4.7.1 Ensure ROT is completed with signed declaration by ordering physician/authorized practitioner at start of transfusion. Make a copy of completed ROT.

4.8 Send the following to the BTS laboratory supplying the stock emergency red cells (i.e. Trace Line testing site or CBS crossmatch lab) as soon as possible:
   • Pre-transfusion blood specimen
   • Completed request form
   • 2 donor segments
   • Completed ROT for each unmatched donor unit transfused
   **Note:** If stock emergency red cells were supplied by a Trace Line hub site (non-testing site) send sample to CBS crossmatch lab

4.9 Order replacement stock as soon as possible

4.10 Retain copy of completed ROT according to record retention policy (refer to appendix 8)

5.0 Reporting

5.1 Ensure all documentation in the blood bank log is complete

5.2 Ensure all required documentation on emergency uncrossmatched red cell tag attached to the unit is complete

5.3 Ensure all required documentation on ROT is complete

5.4 Ensure all required documentation on request form is complete

6.0 Procedural Notes

N/A