

Beaumont Laboratory

Clinical Pathology
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

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Supersedes:

Related Documents:

EMERGENCY ISSUE OF BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS

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Introduction

In certain emergency situations, blood and blood products may be released by the Blood Bank prior to the completion of patient testing. In these situations, the patient's physician must weigh the risk of transfusing uncrossmatched or partially crossmatched blood against the risk of waiting while testing is completed.

Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to instruct Blood Bank staff of procedures to follow when blood is requested prior to the completion of patient testing.

Policy

When blood is released before testing is completed, the records must contain a statement from the requesting physician indicating that the clinical situation was sufficiently urgent to require emergency release of blood.

All units must be tagged with patient information prior to release. In order to tag the units, a type and screen must be ordered and a unique wristband number obtained prior to issuing emergency products. This may be done by blood bank staff in order to not delay the release of products.

Procedure

Packed Cells

1. Selection of blood for emergency transfusion:
 - a. Patients whose group and Rh have been determined on the current admission should be given type specific blood. **Do not rely on historical records.**
 - b. If there is no time to determine the recipient's group and Rh, issue O-Negative packed cells.
2. Complete a "Release of Uncrossmatched Blood" form (attached) to accompany the units and be signed by the requesting physician. Make a copy to keep in Blood Bank until the signed form is returned.
3. Place a "Not Crossmatched / Partially Crossmatched" sticker on the unit and check the appropriate box.
4. Tag and release the blood, following the emergency issue computer flow.
5. As soon as possible, complete the type and screen and perform an immediate spin crossmatch. Perform a full crossmatch if indicated.
6. If incompatibility is detected at any stage of the testing, immediately notify the patient's physician and the Blood Bank Director.

Inform the patient's physician and the Blood Bank Medical Director immediately of any abnormal results

EMERGENCY RELEASE OF BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS

Plasma

In emergency situations when there is no blood type on the current visit, group AB plasma may safely be issued. A sample should be obtained as soon as possible and type specific plasma may be issued once the blood type is complete and prior to an antibody screen being completed.

Warnings

In the event of any abnormal results following the issue of uncrossmatched or partially crossmatched blood, the attending physician must be notified as soon as possible. This includes such things as a positive antibody screen or an incompatible crossmatch.

References

AABB Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services, current edition
AABB Technical Manual, current edition

Attachments

Release of Uncrossmatched Blood

Authorized Reviewers

Laboratory Medical Director
Blood Bank Medical Director
Blood Bank Supervisor

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