

DATE:	13 October 2026
TO:	Physician and Nursing Staff, All Zones
FROM:	APL Transfusion Medicine (TM)
RE:	Changes to Type and Screen Extension Process & Storyboard TSIN Expiry Messages

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Key Message

- Changes are being made in November to the: 1. Type and Screen (T&S) extension process and 2. Display of electronic crossmatch eligibility.
 1. T&S orders are being rebuilt to auto populate information within the Connect Care system to assist with identifying all patients who may qualify for Transfusion Medicine staff to manually extend the expiry period for T&S. For reasons of immunologic safety, extension beyond 96 hours is restricted to those who:
 - Have **not** been transfused with any blood product containing red blood cells within the past 90 days, *and*
 - Have **not** been pregnant within the past 90 days.
 - If a blood component is issued after the T&S has been collected, the T&S expiry will be updated to **96 hours from the time of issue** (or up to 30 days from date of collection, whichever is **first**). No changes will be made to current neonatal T&S expiry requirements of 4 months from birth.
 - To ensure patient safety, the Transfusion Medicine service will be auditing the incidence of mismatch between clinician documentation of transfusion & pregnancy history and the electronic medical record. A mismatch rate $\geq 1\%$ will require re-evaluation and potential removal of T&S extension capability.
- 2. Eligibility for electronic crossmatch will be explicitly presented in the Transfusion Service Identification Number (TSIN) section of the storyboard.
 - Patients who are not eligible for electronic crossmatch will have the notation ****Not EXM Eligible**** appear next to TSIN Expiry in the storyboard.
 - These patients may require additional time for transfusion testing and red cells availability.

Background

1. **Type and Screen Extension:** Surgical outpatients currently may have T&S expiry of 30 days if appropriate information is conveyed to the Transfusion Medicine service and they meet eligibility criteria. Current standards (CSA, CSTM, AABB) require that patients who have been pregnant or transfused within the previous 90 days to have compatibility testing performed on a sample collected within 96 hours prior to red blood cell transfusion due to the risk of alloimmunization (development of red cell antibodies) that may not be detectable at the time of the initial T&S.

A universal 30-day T&S expiry policy for all patients without a history of transfusion or pregnancy within the previous 90 days will be implemented. To facilitate accurate history at the time of ordering, Connect Care will pull information regarding pregnancy and transfusion to highlight patients who would not be eligible for extension at the time of ordering. This facilitates communication for the prescriber to arrange for those ineligible patients to have their T&S collection performed within 72 hours prior to their procedure or planned transfusion to allow time for T&S testing.



2. **Storyboard electronic crossmatch eligibility:** The information regarding current and historical antibodies is available in Chart Review as well as hovering over the storyboard T&S extension information. Despite this, there has been a request to create a quicker visual indication for clinical staff to highlight patients who may require additional steps before releasing additional red cells. Patients who are not electronic crossmatch (EXM) eligible require serologic crossmatches to be performed before red cells safe to transfuse can be issued. The time for this process is variable as it is dependent on the antibody specificity and availability of appropriate donor units.

- The comment for electronic crossmatch eligibility is a manual field entered by laboratory staff at the time of completing the type and screen so may not be immediately apparent.
- Patient history and review of laboratory investigations to identify patients who may be higher risk for red cell transfusion delays is still ultimately the responsibility of the clinician.

More information and screenshots will be available in the Connect Care Blood Administration Guide Quick Start Guide (search CC1945 on Insite).

Action Required

- **Ordering providers must confirm the lack of transfusion and pregnancy history at the time of placing the order for a Type and Screen to qualify for 30-day expiry.**
 - The default answer to these histories will be “unknown” resulting in a 96 hour T&S expiry.
 - Connect Care will automatically select “yes” if transfusion or pregnancy history is detected in the electronic record.
 - If the ordering provider answers “no” to the history, but lab staff find contradictory evidence, the extension will be over-ridden, expiry will be 96 hours and will be added to the failure audit data.
 - Answers cannot be changed after sample collection due to protocols for sample storage required for extension.
- **Before removing a TSIN band, check the T&S expiry date in Connect Care or contact Transfusion Medicine to confirm the expiry date.** Do not remove TSIN bands until the T&S expiry has been verified.
- **Do not remove TSIN bands if the T&S is for a planned procedure, the procedure is subsequently cancelled or postponed, and the new date is expected within the original 30-day T&S expiry.** The patient must be instructed to keep their TSIN band attached to maintain a valid T&S. If the new date will occur after the T&S expiry, a new T&S will need to be ordered and collected.

Effective Date **19th November 2026**

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

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