

DATE:	12 June 2023
TO:	Calgary Zone Acute Care Sites: Physicians, Nursing, Respiratory Therapy,
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) Transfusion Medicine (TM)
RE:	Confirmatory ABORh (CABO) Process in Calgary Zone

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Key Message

- For patients with a current Type and Screen that do not have a CABO test result, Group O red blood cells (RBC) will be crossmatched and issued until a new sample for CABO can be easily obtained or performed on other subsequent laboratory samples (eg. subsequent CBC). Processes that have been in place to attempt to identify patients who may need CABO in advance of their crossmatch being completed will no longer be required.

Background

- Canadian Standards (CSA Standards and CPSA Standard TM.8.1.6) requires either two independent ABO collections before providing group specific red cell units. When a confirmatory blood group is not available, the transfusion service will provide crossmatched Group O RBC for transfusion. TM Services in Calgary had been requesting a second sample following screening of some preprocedure slates or as a STAT collection when RBC were ordered if there was no CABO result/other laboratory sample available. This was due to limitations in the previous Laboratory Information System (LIS) which required the second sample in order for electronic crossmatches to be performed and serological crossmatches were required in the meantime. The new LIS (WellSky) does not have that requirement. The ideal is to have a confirmatory blood group collected at a completely different time and location than the pretransfusion testing.
- A review of data from other centres in the province revealed that the use of crossmatched Group O RBC for patients without a CABO, resulted in only approximately 3% increase in overall use of Group O RBC. However, in situations where large volumes of red cells are required and a second sample is not available, the transfusion service may ask for a sample while providing the initial units as crossmatched group O. Regular monitoring of group O red cells to non group O individuals is part of the normal transfusion service quality system, so if there is undue pressure on group O inventory, alternate processes will be communicated and put in place.

How this will impact you

- If Group O crossmatched RBC are issued for a patient without a CABO, the TM staff may ask about anticipated additional units. If the anticipated future volume is high, then TM will determine whether additional samples exist in the laboratory (e.g. CBC) and if none are available, they may request a sample to be collected when it is convenient.
- TM will no longer review and send a list of patients requiring CABO tests to Day Surgery Units or Operating Rooms, but will crossmatch and issue Group O RBC for these patients when units are requested.



Effective

- June 19, 2023

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

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