



Date: December 2, 2019
To: Central Zone – Physicians and Nursing Staff
From: Alberta Precision Laboratories – Laboratory Services
Re: Change to the Release of ABO Group Specific Red Blood Cells

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- **Effective 3 December 2019**, all patients requiring red blood cell transfusions must have two determinations of their blood type in order to provide ABO group specific red blood cells.
- One blood type must be from a current Type and Screen/Crossmatch sample and the second confirmatory blood type from:
 - Patient's historical record or
 - Separate sample collection
- Transfusion Medicine staff will make every attempt to find a historical blood type.
- Collection of a second confirmatory blood type sample will be required for patients with no history.

Importance/Impact:

- An interpretation comment will be appended to the Type and Screen specimen indicating that a confirmatory sample is required.
- **Transfusion** Medicine staff may contact nursing to request additional testing for confirmatory ABO blood type.
- In the event that a confirmatory blood type cannot be attained, crossmatch compatible Group O red blood cells will be issued.

Background:

- Compliance with new CSA/CPSA standard is required. The intention of this standard is to avoid situations of Wrong Blood in Tube (WBIT).

Action Required:

- When indicated by Transfusion Medicine/Laboratory staff, order Blood Type in Meditech OE system.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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