

Date: July 17, 2014
To: North Zone – Former Aspen Region and Former Peace Country Health Region
Laboratories, Physicians, and Nursing Unit Managers
From: AHS Laboratory Services
Re: Clarification of Transfusion Medicine Test Orders

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

The following explanations and examples are provided to clarify transfusion medicine test orders.

1. **Crossmatch** should be ordered when there is a definite plan to transfuse.
Order # of red cell units or blood components required for transfusion
2. **Type & Screen** should be ordered when transfusion is not planned, but when blood must be available on hand, if needed.
Pre-surgery or pre procedure type and screen orders are appropriate where there is a low risk of transfusion. Examples include higher risk C-sections; cholecystectomies, & selected orthopedic procedures.
3. Blood Group/Blood Type or Rh Immune globulin eligibility should be ordered for spontaneous abortion, miscarriage, or family planning, when red cell transfusion **will not** be required. Blood bank wristbands are **not** required for this testing.
4. Orders for Transfusion Medicine should be submitted using order entry in Meditech, and should include **relevant clinical history or diagnosis**.
5. Patients will have specimens collected and will be banded with a Blood Bank wristband number if blood or blood component transfusion is expected.
6. For assessment of Rh immunoglobulin eligibility in the setting of spontaneous or medical abortion order *ABORH (former Peace) and RHIE1 or RHIE28 (former Aspen) when red cell transfusions **will not** be required. Blood Bank wristbands are **not** required for RhIg eligibility.*

Why this is important:

- The pre-operative type and screen testing of patients ensures that in the unlikely event that blood is urgently needed they can be safely transfused with ABO/Rh compatible red cells. If the patient has a positive antibody screen, compatible units **will be available on site** for the date & time of surgery, provided that the specimen was collected with sufficient pre-op time for testing and transportation to occur.
- Crossmatch testing should be reserved for those patients known to require transfusion, preserving local inventory for urgent use if required.

Action Required:

- Physicians should submit orders for possible transfusions according to the information and direction above.
- Effective July 15, 2014

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Astrid Maguire-Transfusion Safety Officer-North Zone

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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