



Memorandum

Date: January 19, 2016
To: Banff Mineral Springs Hospital Emergency
From: CLS Transfusion Medicine
Re: **Blood Refrigerator – Change to Unmatched Red Cells**

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Key Messages:

On Feb 1st, 2016 the unmatched units in the laboratory's refrigerator will be changed to:

- **2 units of unmatched O negative red cells**, these should be used for transfusion to **female** patients. The basket containing the units will be designated by a visual cue - **pink labelling**.
- **2 units of unmatched O positive red cells**, these should be used for transfusion to **male** patients. The basket containing the units will be designated by a visual cue – **blue labelling**.

Action Required:

- Positive red cells should be used for all male patients requiring emergent transfusion
- The use of O negative red cells should be reserved for female patients
- In life threatening situations all 4 units can be used for either male or female
- CLS Transfusion Medicine has a process to flag and review all cases of Rh negative patients receiving Rh positive blood products ensuring the appropriate follow-up

Background:

- Review of data in the use of unmatched red cells by the Banff Mineral Springs Hospital indicates that a change to the inventory is possible and will bring the site in line with the national guidelines for red cell inventory management.
- This change allows CLS Transfusion Medicine to serve the Banff community with the red cell inventory needed for any trauma situation while aiding in the conservation and appropriate utilization of O negative blood.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This memorandum has been reviewed and approved by:

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