

**Date:** July 5, 2011

**To:** South Zone- East – All Physicians, All AHS Programs/Services

**From:** AHS Laboratory Services, South Zone- East Transfusion Medicine

**Re:** Requirement to Armband Patients for Transfusion Medicine Testing

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**Key Messages:**

- Alberta Health Services South Zone East Transfusion Medicine will be adopting the practice of banding all patients for pre-transfusion testing (Type and Screen and/or Crossmatch) with a unique Blood Bank Identification Number (BBIN).
- This change will coincide with the implementation of the Alberta Health Services Sample Acceptance Policy July 1, 2011.

**Why this is important:**

- The assignment of a unique Blood Bank Identification Number (BBIN) to a patient at the time of collection until the completion of the transfusion process ensures unequivocal and continuous identification of the patient throughout the process and is considered to be best practice.
- The routine use of a Blood Bank Identification Number (BBIN) aligns South Zone East practices with the rest of the province.

**Action Required:**

- All pre-transfusion patients once identified, will be banded with a red vinyl arm band containing a unique Blood Bank Identification Number (BBIN).
- All pre-transfusion samples must be labelled with the patient information as detailed in the Alberta Health Services Sample Acceptance Policy including the Blood Bank Identification Number (BBIN). Collector identification and time of collection should also be written on the samples.
- All Transfusion Medicine requisitions must be labelled with the Blood Bank Identification Number (BBIN) along with the signatures of the patient identifier and collector of the specimens.
- Before transfusion of blood, the Blood Bank Identification Number (BBIN) armband must be checked against the crossmatch information on the unit tag.
- The Blood Bank Identification Number (BBIN) armband must remain on the patient from time of collection to completion of the transfusion process. Removal of the arm band or an illegible Blood Bank Identification Number (BBIN) will result in recollection of the sample.

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

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