Blood Fridge Procedure – PathWest On Site

Effective: 24 October 2023

Sites WITHOUT PathWest on site - refer to Receiving Blood in Blood Shippers for Transfusion from PathWest Laboratories Procedure, see Appendix 5, page 26 in the WACHS Blood Management Policy

Procedure during PathWest working hours

Weekdays: Weekends: hrs

During these hours, nursing and medical staff may access crossmatched blood and EMERGENCY O Negative units for patients by use of the **Pathology Request Form**.

The form is to be sent via

The Blood product will be sent to the requestor as stated on the form via

Procedures out of working hours

Nursing staff are to be orientated in this procedure before active duties commence.

Access to blood fridge

The blood fridge is situated in

Access to blood products

- Once the crossmatch is completed, blood units are to be placed in the marked area on the upper shelves of the Blood Fridge. These shelves are marked clearly: "Cross matched Blood for Patients"
- Uncrossmatched O Negative units are kept on the marked area on the upper shelves.

Blood Fridge Alarm

- The blood fridge has a 24 hour monitored alarm system.
- The blood fridge will alarm if the temperature range is outside 2.5 to 5.5°C
- This will be audible from the fridge.
- The alarm will go directly to the
- The out of hours, the is to call Pathology **immediately** as blood stored outside these temperatures for more than 30 minutes will have to be discarded.
- The will contact the on call Hospital
- Blood may need to be moved to another Blood Fridge This may be done in some circumstances under the direction of the PathWest Scientist on call.

Blood Fridge Power

The Blood fridge is to remain connected to emergency power.

Blood fridge failure.

In the event of Blood Fridge failure, and the consequent removal of blood from the fridge by Pathology, O-ve (emergency blood) and all other blood products are to be accessed by calling Pathology directly.

Printed or saved electronic copies of this policy document are considered uncontrolled

Date of Last Review: October 2019

Version: 3.01

Contact: Blood Management Clinical Nurse Consultant

To reduce the risk of patients receiving blood and/or blood products intended for another patient, staff must not remove products for more than one patient at a time

Removing Blood from the Fridge

- Staff who are authorised to remove blood are: Clinical staff or those who have completed the module BloodSafe: Transporting Blood (BLDTB EL2)
- Take patient identification details to the fridge (i.e. Blood prescription form, patient notes with addressograph etc.)

This identification information is extremely important so that the patient details can be cross-checked against the units from the fridge.

- Locate and remove blood from the marked area on the upper shelves of the fridge only.
- Only one unit of blood is to be removed from the blood fridge at a time to avoid wastage of Red Blood Cells unless extremely rapid transfusion of large quantities of blood is needed.
- Take blood unit to the Blood Fridge Register located near the blood fridge.
- Complete all details in Blood Fridge Register next to the duplicate of the label of the unit of blood just retrieved from the fridge:

	o complete section below labels MUST remain on donor unit
HE Number print clearly please:	
Date:	Time:
Ward / Transfer / RFDS:	

- Please check iCM for Cross-match report
- Please return blood to Pathology <u>immediately</u> if it is not going to be used, blood should not be used after 30 minutes outside the blood fridge. Upon returning blood, please sign the product back into the register and notify a lab staff member of the return.

All the information required above may be obtained from the corresponding blood bag label.

• If you require Uncrossmatched O Negative unit in an emergency, these are stored on the marked area on the upper shelves. Please keep the paperwork intact. The attached "Uncrossmatched Blood" form must be filled out by the Medical Officer and returned to PathWest.

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