Blood Fridge Procedure – PathWest On Site

Sites WITHOUT PathWest on site – refer to Receiving Blood in Blood Shippers for Transfusion from PathWest Laboratories Procedure, see Appendix 5, page 24 in the WACHS Blood Management CPS

Procedure during PathWest working hours

Weekdays: **hrs - Weekends:** **hrs**

During these hours, nursing and medical staff may access crossmatched blood and EMERGENCY O Negative units for patients by use of the **Blood Product 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 Engineer
- 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.

Removing Blood from the Fridge

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

- Staff who are authorised to remove Red Blood Cells are: Registered Nurse, Midwife, Nurse Practitioner or Medical Officer.
- Take patient identification details to the fridge (i.e. IV 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.

- If first unit of blood, take the “Crossmatch Report” on the matched patient's units.
- 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 Transfusion Record located near the blood fridge.
- Complete all details in the Blood Transfusion Record including:
  1. Date
  2. Patient Surname
  3. Patient first Name
  4. DOB
  5. UMRN
  6. Patient Blood Group
  7. Product
  8. Blood Bag Product Number
  9. Donor Blood Group
  10. Donor Bag expiry date
  11. Sign your name and print your HE number.

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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