

Referenced in L.02.025 Investigation of Suspected Transfusion Reactions, L.02.044 Transfusion Medicine Workflow, L.02.047 Emergency Release, and L.02.048 BBCS Downtime-Transfusion Medicine

General Information

- All testing is performed at We Are Blood by CLIA qualified personnel.
- **Normal Laboratory Hours: Mon-Fri. 7:00am -7:00pm.** Testing services are available outside of these hours; however additional fees will apply (STAT, after-hours, etc).

<u>Laboratory</u> (512) 206-1226 (phone) (512) 206-1363 (fax)

Sample Collection

- **Important Notes** (please read before collecting samples):
 - It is the responsibility of the transfusing facility to collect and properly label blood samples for testing.
 - Packets are provided to your facility that includes sample tubes, a Blood Bank Armband and a request form.
 - Collect samples within 24 hours of anticipated transfusion.
 - Samples should be transported to We Are Blood as soon as possible after collection.
 - **For STAT orders, please call the WrB laboratory to ensure timely processing.**
 - **A second sample must be collected on all patients at a different time than the original samples. The sample labeling requirements are detailed below. The second sample will be used to perform a second blood type verification to ensure patient transfusion safety.**
 - Samples may be delivered via a courier used by your facility or by We Are Blood (courier service fees apply).
 - Samples and Request (**F.0495 Transfusion Medicine Request – Compatibility Clients**) must be in agreement, and samples must be labeled at bedside concurrent with placing the Blood Bank Armband on the patient.
 - **Samples and Requests are reviewed upon receipt at We Are Blood. If samples are mislabeled, incorrect or missing any of the requirements, they must be discarded and you will be requested to re-collect samples. Proper specimen collection is of utmost importance to patient safety!**
- Using **Blood Bank Armbands**
 - Follow the manufacturer's directions for using the Blood Bank Armband to label samples and place the band on the patient. Instructions are located either in the collection packet or in the We Are Blood information binder at your facility.

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- **Sample Labeling Requirements** (Pre-printed labels may be used):
 - **Patient's full name**
 - **Medical Record Number**
 - **Blood Bank Armband Number** (a sticker from the Armband may be used)
 - **Collection date** (must be hand-written unless the pre-printed label displays the current date)
 - **Collection time** (must be hand-written)
 - **Phlebotomist's initials** (must be hand-written)
- **Request Form (F.0495 Transfusion Medicine Request Form – Compatibility Clients)**
 - Complete with facility name, all patient demographic and clinical information prompted.

Note: Specimens are routinely used for transfusion testing for three (3) days. For outpatient settings, a sample for crossmatch can be extended seven (7) days past specimen collection date if the patient has never been pregnant or has not been transfused in the last three months, has no history of an antibody, and the current antibody screen is negative. Call We Are Blood laboratory for assistance. Record the 7-day specimen request in the comments section of the request form.

Product Orders

- **Red Blood Cell Orders:** fill in the following sections on **F.0495**
 - Testing: check "Type and Crossmatch"
 - Products: check "Red Blood Cells" and indicate quantity needed
 - Priority: check the Priority
 - Special Product Requirements: check any special requirements of patient
- **Platelet Orders:** fill in the following sections on **F.0495**
 - Testing: check "Type and Screen"
 - Products: check "Apheresis Platelets" and indicate quantity needed
 - Priority: check the Priority
 - Special Product Requirements: check any special requirements of patient
- **Add-on Orders:** If a patient has an in-date sample at We Are blood and is still wearing the original Blood Bank Armband, it is not necessary to collect another sample for testing. Complete a new **F.0495** using the information from the patient's Blood Bank Armband:
 - Testing: check "Add-on Order"
 - Products: check what type of product and indicate quantity needed
 - Priority: check the Priority
 - Special Product Requirements: check any special requirements of patient

Fax the new request form to We Are Blood Laboratory. Call the Laboratory so that staff is aware that the order has been submitted.

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Product Issue

- **Patient Identification verification**

- Prior to delivery or pickup of products, the We Are Blood Laboratory will call and verify positive patient identification. Be prepared to provide the following patient identification information verbally.

This information should be communicated from the patient's bedside reading the information directly from the Blood Bank Armband attached to the patient. If you discover that the patient is NOT wearing the Blood Bank Armband at the time of the anticipated transfusion, call We Are Blood laboratory immediately for further instructions.:

- ***Patient name, Medical Record Number, and Blood Bank Armband number.***
 - The We Are Blood technologist will review this information. Blood products will not be released until this information is found to be accurate with the sample submitted for testing. Discrepancies in the identification of the sample submitted for testing will require sample recollection and repeat of all testing.
- **Product delivery**
 - Products can either be picked up by your courier or delivered by We Are Blood (a courier service fee applies). Once issued, products cannot be returned.
 - Products will be issued to your facility in a cooler labeled “**Transfusion Services**”. Transfusion must be started by the time documented on the outside of the cooler.
 - If transfusion is unexpectedly delayed and cannot be started by the time noted on the cooler, call We Are Blood laboratory for assistance. **Products are not acceptable for return once issued.**

Transfusion Requirements

- Immediately before transfusion, the transfusionist and one other individual shall, in the presence of the recipient, verify the following information matching the blood or blood component with the intended recipient:
 - The intended recipient's identification (***Name, Medical Record Number, and Blood Bank Armband Number***).
 - The intended recipient's ABO group and Rh type.
 - The donation (product) identification number.
 - The donor ABO group and Rh type.
 - The interpretation of crossmatch tests.
 - Special transfusion requirements.
 - The expiration date of the product (product is not expired).

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Note: This information must be verified with the patient's Blood Bank Armband on the patient-NOT from the patient's chart. If you discover that the patient is NOT wearing the Blood Bank Armband at the time of the anticipated transfusion, call We Are Blood laboratory immediately.

- Document this verification by signing the transfusion tag that accompanies each product.
- Once removed from the cooler, the entire unit must be transfused within 4 hours.
- The patient shall be monitored for potential adverse events during the transfusion and for an appropriate time thereafter as determined by the facility's Medical Director.
- Specific written instructions concerning possible adverse events, including emergency medical care contacts shall be provided to the patient or a responsible caregiver when direct medical observation or monitoring of the patient will not be available after transfusion.
- We Are Blood does not provide infusion sets and does not maintain transfusion Standard Operating Procedures. These items are the responsibility of your facility.

Suspected Transfusion Reactions

- Signs and symptoms of a transfusion reaction:
 - Febrile – fever and/or chills
 - Allergic – mild urticaria, itching, flushing
 - Severe allergic – blood pressure changes, asthma, edema, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea
 - Hemolytic – fever, chills, chest/flank pain, hypotension, nausea/vomiting, flushing, dyspnea, hemoglobinuria, DIC, oliguria, pain at needle site, shock, generalized bleeding
- Proper steps to take:
 - **Stop the transfusion immediately** but keep the IV open.
 - Recheck the bedside verification.
 - Notify the ordering physician or authorized health professional STAT.
 - Notify We Are Blood Laboratory.
 - We Are Blood will fax **F.0662 Suspected Transfusion Reaction Investigation** to you and guide you through the investigation process. Complete the investigation form as soon as possible and return it to We Are Blood along with the following items:
 - Product bag and all attached solutions in a biohazard bag. **Remove all needles!**
 - A plain red top tube (no serum separator) and an EDTA tube properly labeled according to the Sample Collection section above using the patient's original Blood Bank Armband. Label tubes "post-reaction".
 - We Are Blood laboratory will perform a STAT investigation and notify your facility of testing results.

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- o **DO NOT** transfuse additional blood products without instructions from We Are Blood laboratory. Medical Director review and approval is required prior to transfusions subsequent to a transfusion reaction.

Emergency Release of Blood Products

- If blood products are needed prior to obtaining a sample for testing, call We Are Blood laboratory. Be prepared with the following information:
 - o **Patient's name**
 - o **Requesting Physician** (the physician will be **required** to sign for responsibility to transfuse uncrossmatched units).
- Collect properly labeled samples according to the Sample Collection section above. **Please make sure samples are ready for pick-up at the time the uncrossmatched products are delivered to ensure STAT processing.**
- The employee receiving the uncrossmatched products must sign an Emergency Release form (**F.0758 Emergency Release of Blood Products Pending Compatibility Testing**) acknowledging receipt of the products.
- The physician, transfusionist, and one other individual must then sign **the Emergency Release form** acknowledging responsibility for the transfusion. Fax the completed form to We Are Blood as soon as possible.
- Upon return of the sample to We Are Blood laboratory, testing will be performed STAT and results will be called to your facility.
- If the emergent situation continues, it is recommended to transport the patient to the nearest hospital, as We Are Blood cannot support transfusion requirements of an ongoing nature.