

## 2 REQUESTS FOR PRE TRANSFUSION TESTING

Date Issued: January 2005  
Date Revised: May 2011  
Review Date: May 2013  
Authorised by: KEMH Transfusion Committee  
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2.3 Correct Patient Identification During Sample Collection  
Section 2  
Transfusion Medicine Protocols  
Women's & Newborn Health Services  
Perth Western Australia

### 2.3 CORRECT PATIENT IDENTIFICATION DURING SAMPLE COLLECTION

**Failure to properly identify the patient at time of sample collection or at the time of infusion is the biggest single cause of fatal transfusion reactions.**

The person collecting the sample is responsible for:

- Positively identifying the patient.
- Hand labelling the sample legibly, accurately and fully **at the patient's (bed) side.**
- Completing and signing the collection details section of the request form. The identity of the collector must be included.

Work with **one** patient at a time.

**Positively identify the patient by:**

- ✓ **Checking the hospital identity band that is securely fastened to the patient (DO NOT use the bed label)**
- AND**
- ✓ **Asking the patient (if conscious and able) to spell their surname and given names and state their date of birth. When necessary, the parent or legal guardian may undertake this responsibility.**

#### **WARNING**

***If there is no identity band, one MUST be attached to the patient before the sample leaves the bedside.***

***The information on the sample MUST match the request form and ID band.***

***The person who collected the sample MUST hand label it fully, accurately and legibly immediately after venepuncture AT THE BEDSIDE.***

Samples must be hand labelled. Samples labelled with pre-printed patient labels are NOT acceptable and will be rejected (The use of patient 'addressograph' labels is a proven source of error).

**Minimum** sample labelling is as follows:

- Surname and given name(s) in full and correctly spelt.
- UMRN wherever available (or DOB if unknown).
- Date and time of collection.
- Initials of the collector.

The collector must sign the 'Collection Details' section of the Transfusion Request Form and enter the collection date and time. By signing this section, the collector takes full responsibility for the correct identification of the patient.

- DO NOT** use the bed label instead of the hospital ID band.
- DO NOT** pre-label the sample tube before the sample is collected.
- DO NOT** label the sample after leaving the patient.
- DO NOT** take the sample to the nursing station before labelling.
- DO NOT** give the sample to a second staff member for labelling.
- DO NOT** label the sample with a pre-printed patient label.

If the request form or blood sample identification is incomplete, incorrect or illegible, the request for blood grouping or crossmatching will be rejected.