2.5 THE ROLE OF THE GROUP AND HOLD REQUEST MINIMUM SAMPLE VOLUMES AND CROSSMATCH EXPIRY

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MINIMUM SAMPLE VOLUMES

CROSSMATCH EXPIRY

THE ROLE OF THE GROUP AND HOLD REQUEST

In order to prevent unnecessary delays, it is of the utmost importance that clinicians ensure that an in-date group and hold (G&H) sample is available in Blood Bank for all patients at risk of requiring a blood transfusion, even if this risk is very small. The clinician should check blood availability before taking the patient to theatre. Prompt notification of all cancelled or rescheduled operations is requested so that blood can be made available for other patients.

If an in-date G&H sample is available, the Blood Bank can issue fully compatible blood within 10 minutes. In contrast, an urgent crossmatch on a new sample will take a minimum of 30-35 minutes from the time of sample receipt provided the antibody screen is negative.

In the event atypical antibodies are detected it may take hours (or even days) to provide compatible blood depending on the specificity. See WNHS Fact Sheets for further information:

Pre Admission Samples for Transfusion Medicine Testing
FAQ about Group & Hold and Crossmatch

Requests for routine pre-transfusion testing for elective surgery should be received by Blood Bank at the latest by 1530 hours the previous working day.

G&H samples are valid for 7 days from the sample collection date and time. However, if the patient has been transfused within the previous 3 months the sample is only valid for 72 hours.

If advice on sample availability is required, contact the Blood Bank.

KEMH Blood Bank Extension 2748

OUT OF HOURS Shift Scientist Telephone 2751 or pager 3254
MINIMUM SAMPLE VOLUMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Sample Volume</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 years to adult</td>
<td>6mL EDTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 months to 3 years old</td>
<td>3mL EDTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neonate</td>
<td>0.5mL EDTA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N.B Up to 4 months of age a 6mL EDTA maternal sample is also required for crossmatching a neonate.

If the baby is a transferred patient and a maternal sample is not available please contact the Blood Bank as crossmatch can be done on the baby sample in these cases. However a larger sample is required.

CROSSMATCH EXPIRY

G&H samples are valid for 7 days from the sample collection date and time. However, if the patient has been transfused within the previous 3 months the sample is only valid for 72 hours.

Routinely, crossmatched blood will be held for 48 hours from the required time or until sample expiry, whichever is the soonest. Upon request, it may be possible to extend the holding period up to the expiry date of the sample.

If advice on sample availability or holding period is required, contact the Blood Bank.

REFERENCES

