

2 REQUESTS FOR PRE TRANSFUSION TESTING

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2.7 The Role of the Group and Hold Request
Section 2
Transfusion Medicine Protocols
Women's & Newborn Health Services
Perth Western Australia

2.7 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

LABORATORY CONTACT NUMBERS

KEMH	Blood Bank Extension 2748
OUT OF HOURS	Shift Scientist Telephone 2751 or pager 3254