3 BLOOD TRANSFUSION URGENT AND EMERGENCY REQUESTS

3.1 URGENT BLOOD TRANSFUSION REQUESTS AND EMERGENCY UNCROSSMATCHED BLOOD

UGRNT BLOOD TRANSFUSION REQUESTS

EMERGENCY UNCROSSMATCHED BLOOD

URGENT BLOOD TRANSFUSION REQUESTS

The requesting clinician or designee must telephone the Blood Bank for ALL urgent requests.

If an in-date Group and Hold (G&H) is already available crossmatched blood can be issued within 5 minutes. If not, the provision of compatible blood will take a minimum of 30-35 minutes.

In an emergency O Rh D Negative Uncrossmatched blood and Group Specific Uncrossmatched blood are available from the Blood Bank. In these cases a pre-transfusion sample and request form are still essential.

Urgent FFP and Cryoprecipitate may be thawed for immediate use once the patient's blood group is determined.

Urgent Platelets will normally need to be ordered from ARCBS as stocks of platelets are not held on site. This will incur a small delay whilst urgent delivery is organised.

The Blood Bank Scientist MUST be contacted and the patient's name and UMRN should be supplied prior to collection.

EMERGENCY UNCROSSMATCHED BLOOD

THE REQUESTING CLINICIAN OR DESIGNEE MUST TELEPHONE THE BLOOD BANK FOR ALL EMERGENCY REQUESTS.

In an emergency, blood may be clinically essential prior to the completion of compatibility testing. On these occasions, the requesting clinician must take full responsibility for the use of uncrossmatched blood, which carries a significant risk of severe transfusion reaction and should therefore be restricted to life threatening emergencies. The reason form transfusion must be documented in the medical record.

There are two types of uncrossmatched blood:
GROUP SPECIFIC UNCROSSMATCHED BLOOD

Upon the receipt of a sample, group specific blood the same ABO and Rh (D) group as the patient can be issued uncrossmatched within 10 minutes.
Group specific blood must not be taken on the basis of blood groups done on previous admissions or at other institutions. A group must be performed on a sample collected during the current admission.

EMERGENCY O RH (D) NEGATIVE UNCROSSMATCHED BLOOD

Group specific blood should always be used in preference to O Negative blood whenever possible.

The use of O Negative uncrossmatched blood is generally restricted to occasions when a sample is not immediately available.

The Blood Bank must be informed of the emergency by telephone and a pre-transfusion sample and request form must be sent immediately.

REFERENCES

The Australian Blood Service (ARCBS) Blood Component Information

Australian & New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion (ANZSBT) & Royal College of Nursing


Guidelines for Transfusion for massive blood loss: Clin Lab Haemat 1988, 10, 265-273
