

## 3 URGENT AND EMERGENCY BLOOD TRANSFUSION REQUESTS

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3.2 Emergency Uncrossmatched Blood  
Section 3  
Transfusion Medicine Protocols  
WNHS  
Perth Western Australia

### 3.2 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.