

Transfusion Service

Phone Extension

Direct Blood Bank phone number is 207-753-5475. You can also reach the Blood Bank personnel by calling the main laboratory at 207-777-8400.

Wristband

All inpatients who may potentially require transfusion must wear a St. Mary's Regional Medical Center inpatient wristband and a Transfusion Service Blood Bank wristband. Outpatients need the Transfusion Service Blood Bank wristband. The Blood Bank wristband must be left on for the duration of the admission (inpatients). Two individuals will positively identify all patients prior to drawing specimen for Blood Bank for pretransfusion workups.

Blood On Hold

Blood is generally kept on hold for 48 hours. If a patient goes to surgery, 1 unit of blood will be held until the following morning. To keep blood on hold, a new request must be issued by nursing service every 72 hours.

Preadmission Testing and Day Surgery Patients

When these patients are drawn as outpatients, ABO, Rh, and antibody screening are performed. If an antibody is found, it is identified.

On admission, the RN on the nursing unit will obtain the "Blood Bank Wristband Protocol" form. If it is missing, call the laboratory. Confirm the patient's identity. Ask the patient if he/she has received any blood, blood products, or been pregnant during the last 3 months. Verify that the appropriate wristband is being used by having the patient sign the "Blood Bank Wristband Protocol" form. The RN will compare the signatures. If there are any discrepancies, the Blood Bank will be notified immediately and a new specimen will be drawn.

If the patient must be redrawn (pink sticker on "Blood Bank Wristband Protocol" form), order in the computer as follows:

- If "Type and Screen" or "Type and Screen and Products" are checked off under the stickers, order a #TS "Type and Screen, Blood" and order product.
- If the physician had ordered products on hold or to be given, order those.

If the patient does not need to be redrawn (blue sticker on the "Blood Bank Wristband Protocol" form) but has orders for blood product to be on hold or to be given, order the product and quantity needed.

Note: If the "Blood Bank Wristband Protocol" form is missing, the patient must be redrawn.

Forward the completed "Blood Bank Wristband Protocol" form to the laboratory. The completed form can be hand delivered, sent via pneumatic tube, or faxed to 207-777-8314.

To Get a Unit of Blood or Blood Component from the Blood Bank

The nursing staff is responsible for ordering a blood bank transfusion message when a product is requested. The product request will print in the Blood Bank with the patient's name, account number, medical record number, location, date of birth, and a description of the product requested as well as the Blood Bank wristband number. The Blood Bank technologist will contact the nursing unit when the product is ready for transfusion. The blood product may be picked up from the Blood Bank by a member of the nursing staff or may be sent to the nursing unit via pneumatic tube. If the unit is not transfused, it must be returned to the Blood Bank within 20 minutes of the time of issue.

Blood cannot be stored in nursing unit refrigerators. In emergency situations, blood can be issued to the operating room in special storage containers so that it will be immediately available. Contact the Transfusion Service for more information.

Emergency Request for Uncrossmatched Blood

In an emergency situation, the physician can request uncrossmatched blood. The physician (or a nurse delegated by him) must sign the "Emergency Request" form at the time the blood is issued to the Emergency Department. The crossmatch will be completed while the blood is infusing. If any incompatibility is detected, the physician will be notified immediately. If a nurse initially signed the form, the physician must counter sign it after the emergency is resolved.

Transfusion Reactions

Notify laboratory and physician immediately, and fill out the "Transfusion Report" form (either electronic or paper). For more information on transfusion reactions, see the Nursing Service Manual under intravenous therapy procedures.

Autologous Transfusion

Autologous donation refers to the procedure of a patient having his or her own blood drawn and stored in anticipation of the scheduled surgery.

The patient's physician must request the procedure and fill out the appropriate request form. It is preferable to begin the donations at least a month prior to the date of surgery and to prescribe oral iron supplements for the patient. At least 72 hours must elapse between the time of the last donation and surgery. Please contact the American Red Cross special collections department at 1-800-462-9400 for more information.

Directed Donations

Done when patient wants to have friends or family donate units of blood for his use prior to scheduled surgery or transfusion. Physician initiates request by calling Red Cross at 800-462-9400. Red Cross will then contact patient to discuss arrangements, fees, and donor selection (patient must find his own donors). All donors are drawn at the Red Cross Center in Portland. Directed donations must be made no more than 20 work days and no less than 6 work days before the date blood is needed for transfusion.

Blood Products Available

- Leuko Reduced Red Cells: Ordered as needed for a specific patient from Red Cross. Blood is filtered to remove leukocytes by Red Cross Laboratory before shipment. Crossmatch required.
- Leuko Reduced Irradiated Red Cells: Ordered as needed for a specific patient from Red Cross. Blood is filtered to remove leukocytes and irradiated by Red Cross Laboratory before shipment. Crossmatch required.
- Fresh Frozen Plasma: Patient must have had a pretransfusion workup on record. No crossmatch is required, but it takes 30 minutes to thaw fresh frozen plasma. Frozen plasma [24 hours may be substituted for fresh frozen plasma.
- Psoralin Treated Platelet Pheresis: Ordered only as needed for a specific patient from Red Cross. Pretransfusion workup required to be on record but no crossmatch required.
- Cryoprecipitate: Patient must have pretransfusion workup on record. No crossmatch required but it takes 30 to thaw. Ordered as needed from Red Cross. Cryoprecipitate comes in pools of 5.
- Rho(D) Immune Globulin (RhoGAM®): Requires Rho(D) immune globulin workup before being issued for postpartum or prenatal patients.

- Deglycerolized Red Blood Cells: Ordered as needed for a specific patient. Must be crossmatched.
- Washed Red Blood Cells: Ordered as needed for a specific patient. Must be crossmatched.
- Autologous Red Blood Cells: Patient donates units of their own blood prior to scheduled surgery. Requires pretransfusion workup and crossmatching.
- Directed Blood Donations: Patient has friends or family donate blood prior to scheduled surgery or transfusion. Requires pretransfusion workup and crossmatching.

Ordering Information

Order on Blood Bank Work screen. Enter comment as to whether blood is to be on hold or to be transfused. Whenever a crossmatch is required, the product must be ordered. The product orders the crossmatch. Enter comment if blood product must be CMV negative.