

Block Release Protocol

Further Information Is Available By Contacting The Medical Director of the Transfusion Medicine Service: Zbigniew M. Szczepiorkowski, M.D. or the Blood Bank Medical Director, Nancy M. Dunbar M.D.

This protocol is designed to provide Emergency Release of uncrossmatched, Group O Red Blood Cells for patients in any location experiencing acute hemorrhage.

The Blood Bank Laboratory maintains five blocks, each with three units of Group O Red Blood Cells for rapid release at all times. Uncrossmatched Group O Rh negative or Group O Rh positive units may be sent based upon patient status, gender, and age. In addition, two blocks, each with three units of Group O Rh positive Red Blood Cells are maintained in a refrigerator in the DHART hangar for DHART use. Blocks are immediately released upon request. For patients < 10kg, a single unit may be requested. For all other patients, three units of Group O Red Blood Cells are automatically sent.

To activate this protocol, call the Blood Bank, (5-7207), request a Block Release of RBC's (or ask for units of uncrossmatched O Red Blood Cells). Provide the full patient name, DHMC Medical Record Number, and Date of Birth. Indicate the number of blocks requested (3 units per block). Notify the Blood Bank if the units are needed in the Outpatient Surgery Center (OSC) so arrangements can be made to meet the courier.

Enter and sign the electronic orders for a RBC block release(s) via eD-H. Select: "Block Release of RBC's". The ordering provider's signature is required by federal law (FDA regulation) for all uncrossmatched units of RBCs, whether they are transfused or returned to the Blood Bank.

For patients without a valid type and screen, a specimen for type and screen testing **MUST** be collected and sent to the Blood Bank as soon as possible. If the patient has never been typed at DHMC before, a second ABO recheck specimen will be requested.

The Block Release will contain the "Block Release of Emergency Uncrossmatched Red Blood Cells" Form H-1554 (white and yellow copies) identifying the patient and red blood cell unit numbers in the block release. Documentation is completed on the paper block release form.

The transfusionist will complete the Block Release Form: sign and write the date and time each unit of blood in the Block is transfused in the appropriate space on the form. The person confirming will also sign the Block Release Form. Units not transfused will be lined or crossed out on the form. Units not transfused are to be returned to the Blood Bank expeditiously with the same cold packs sent with the units.

The original (white copy) of the Block Release Form must be completed by the transfusionist and placed in the patient's chart. DHART only: The yellow copy must be sent back to the Blood Bank with or without any unused units.

Blood lock devices will not be used with emergency release RBC components. Proper identification of intended recipient with blood components must still occur.