Block Release for Emergency Uncrossmatched Red Blood Cells

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 blocks of three units of uncrossmatched Group O Rh Positive Red Blood Cells for rapid release at all times. A single unit of uncrossmatched Group O Rh Negative Red Blood Cells is maintained for emergency use in neonates. Blocks are immediately released upon request.

To obtain a block release of uncrossmatched RBCs, order “Block Release of RBC's” in eD-H or call the Blood Bank, (5-7207 to verbally request a Block Release of RBC's or ask for emergency uncrossmatched O Red Blood Cells). If ordering verbally, please be prepared to provide Patient Name, DHMC Medical Record Number, and Date of Birth.

Notify the Blood Bank if the units are needed in the Outpatient Surgery Center (OSC) so arrangements can be made to meet the courier.

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. This signature is captured when the order is placed in eD-H. If the order is placed verbally, please enter and sign the electronic orders for a "Block Release of RBC's" via eD-H as soon as time allows. An electronic note requiring co-signature will be placed for all verbal requests that do not have orders in eD-H to capture the required physician signature.

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.