Ordering and Obtaining Specimens

When ordering Transfusion Service tests or products, consider the following:

- When an order is placed for “Draw and Hold,” blood is collected and labeled for a possible “ABO and Rh Type,” “Type and Screen,” or “Crossmatch.” The blood specimen is set aside and no testing is performed on the specimen until such time as an order for “ABO and Rh Type,” “Type and Screen,” or “Crossmatch” is received in Transfusion Services.
- When an order is placed for “Type and Screen,” blood is collected, and an “ABO and Rh Type,” and “Antibody Screen” are performed on the specimen. **No crossmatch or compatibility testing between the patient’s specimen and donor unit is performed. No units are set aside for possible use by the patient,** unless the antibody screen is positive,or the patient has a history of a clinically significant antibody and finding crossmatch compatible blood could be difficult. A “Type and Screen” is requested when it is unlikely that the patient will need a transfusion. However, if something unforeseen occurs, blood can be readied for the patient in a short period of time, since much of the testing has already been completed.
- When red cell products (packed cells, autologous blood, leukoreduced packed cells, or pediatric aliquot red cells) are needed, that Prepare/ order is added on to an order for “Type and Screen.” Products may be added to any current “Type and Screen” specimen without reordering. If there is a question about available specimen, call Transfusion Services. A crossmatch or compatibility testing between the patient’s specimen and donor specimen is also performed for the desired number of units. Compatible units are set aside for administration to the patient.
- When blood components are requested, there is usually no need for pretransfusion work-ups which would require the draw of blood from the patient. Usually, just an order to Prepare/ transfuse “Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP),” “Platelets,” or “Cryoprecipitate” is sufficient in these cases. However, if the patient does not have a historical record in the Transfusion Services computer of an “ABO and Rh Type,” it will be necessary to place an order for an “ABO and Rh Type.”

All orders for Transfusion Service testing and products are placed through the Laboratory Orders function in the Epic hospital information system.

When an order is placed for a “Draw and Hold” or “Type and Screen”, the laboratory phlebotomist brings the order entry request form and phlebotomy supplies to the patient’s bedside.

Laboratory personnel are to collect all blood for “Draw and Hold,” and “Type and Screen” testing **or** are to be present at patient’s bedside at time of draw. If the blood is drawn by a physician or nurse, observe the draw of the blood. The laboratory person is then responsible for immediately labeling the tubes of blood properly.
Transfusion Services samples can be drawn by surgery, NICU, CT or Homecare. The Transfusion Service technologist will verify that the tube is labeled properly (handwritten) with the patient’s name (first and last), medical record number or date of birth, date and time of draw, and identification of surgery, NICU, CT or Homecare scanning personnel drawing the blood.

- Identify patient by name, if possible
- Match hospital arm band with request form while checking:
  —Patient’s first and last name
  —Medical record number and/or date of birth

Label Transfusion Service tubes with:

- Patient’s first and last name
- Medical record number or date of birth
- Date and time drawn
- Phlebotomist’s identification

Perform venipuncture. Blood specimens and request form are delivered to Transfusion Services where the blood is crossmatched for the patient.

If, at the time of transfusion, the intended recipient is not wearing a hospital arm band, the transfusion must not be started.

Blood Administration

1. A nurse (or individual with written authorization from the nurse) responsible for transfusion will bring a pick up slip containing required patient information for comparison to the product issued. If the patient has >1 product available, the authorization should include the product needed.
2. The Transfusion Services staff checks the Transfusion Service computer for available products.
3. The transfusion product is checked by the nurse (or individual with written authorization from the nurse) and the MT/MLT before it is issued from Transfusion Services. Checking includes the following:

   - Patient's full name (first and last) and medical record number on the Blood Administration/Unit Identification Form is checked against the name and medical record number on the pick-up slip.
   - Patient's "Group and Rh" is checked with the donor's "Group and Rh" on both the blood bag and unit request form (if applicable).
   - Unit number on the product is checked against the unit number recorded on the hang tag.
   - Special instructions and expiration of unit are verified.

4. After the nurse (or individual with written authorization from the nurse) and MT/MLT agree that all information is correct, the MT/MLT issuing the blood signs the "Blood Administration/Unit Identification Form" with the date and time of issue. The MT/MLT also indicates that the unit has been inspected and found suitable for issue by completing issue process in LIS.
5. Before the nurse (or individual with written authorization from the nurse) takes the product to the nursing unit, the MT/MLT removes 2 segments from the blood bag to store as a sample of the transfused product (if blood is being issued).
6. Transfusion must be completed within 4 hours from issue time. There may be times when it is necessary to return a unit to Transfusion Services. **Blood that has been out of Transfusion Services that exceeds the temperature range of 1-10° C cannot be accepted for reissuance.**