

Transfusion Services

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION AND HOURS OF SERVICE

Children's Minnesota located in Minneapolis and St Paul maintains a Transfusion Service to provide blood and blood components for routine and emergency transfusion of inpatients and outpatients. A Transfusion Service Medical Director is available at all times for consultation and to approve special component requests.

The Transfusion Service is open 24 hours a day. Information concerning component availability, specimens and general information may be obtained by calling 612-813-6824 or 651-220-6558.

Continually work toward providing the following turnaround times for testing/ components:

- ABO/Rh type: 30 minutes from receipt of patient sample
- Type and Screen: 60 minutes from receipt of patient sample
- Type and Crossmatch 60 minutes from receipt of patient sample
- **Positive antibodies screens** require an additional 8 or more hours to obtain compatible components because the patient's samples are forwarded to a blood center reference lab for identification of antibody and compatibility testing.
- Platelets require 30-60 minutes depending what is available in-house. The Minneapolis campus keeps either an A or AB platelet on hand for emergency use.

REFERENCE LABORATORY

Reference Laboratory testing is referred to Memorial Blood Center, Minneapolis, MN. Emergency services are available.

Inquiries concerning special testing can be directed to Children's Transfusion Service, 612-813-6824 or 651-220-6558.

AUTOLOGOUS UNITS

Patients who meet minimum health requirements may want to use autologous blood whenever a procedure or treatment is likely to require blood transfusion. Donation requirements are less stringent than for other blood donors.

Patients and their providers must request these special services and schedule donations well in advance of the expected date of use. At least three working days are required to process units. Additional fees are charged for the processing and tracking of these donations. Information packets, including required forms, are available from the Transfusion Service or the Blood Center.

AVAILABILITY OF COMPONENTS

Blood and blood components are purchased from the local blood centers: Memorial Blood Center of Minneapolis, MN. Blood and blood components are collected from volunteer donors. All donor screening and testing are conducted according to current FDA requirements. Please contact the Pharmacy regarding Albumin, Factor and Zoster Immune Globulin products.

Red cells and platelet blood components are leukocyte reduced pre-storage by the blood centers (Memorial Blood Center in Minneapolis). Children's Minnesota considers leukocyte reduced red cells and platelets to be CMV-safe. Leukocyte reduced red blood cells will be supplied routinely for transfusions. Whole blood is unavailable. Fresh Frozen Plasma and Cryoprecipitate with storage limits of less than 24

hours after preparation should be requested no more than one hour prior to the intended transfusion time, with the exception of pre-operative orders.

An identified urgent need for blood or blood components will take priority over other blood orders. Notify the Transfusion Service of the urgency of the request so that a priority can be assigned to the request. If no difficulty is encountered in compatibility testing, routine orders for Red Blood Cells will be available within two hours after receipt of the order.

Emergency Situations:

- In the event of life-threatening massive blood loss, units of blood may be issued at any time before the patient's type and antibody screen is completed. If the patient's blood type is not known, group O negative red cells will be issued. If the patient's blood type is known, ABO/Rh type specific red cells will be used.
- The transfusion service will partner with Innovative Blood Center when there is an external or internal disaster.

RESERVED UNITS

A crossmatched unit of blood may be held in the Blood Bank for a maximum of three days from the time the crossmatch specimen was collected. The component allocation will be cancelled at midnight. For example, if the Type and Screen sample was collected on the 4th day of the month at noon, any allocations of crossmatched units of blood would be cancelled at 23:59 (11:59 PM) on the 7th.

Blood components reserved for a patient are unavailable for other patients. Therefore, staff members should notify Blood Bank personnel if the components reserved will no longer be needed so that they can be used for other patients.