

Transfusion E-issue

May 2015

Clinpath Laboratories electronically issues units of blood for Transfusion. An extended transfusion sample validity of 30 days is available for eligible patients.

It must be noted that strict criteria applies to both the e-issue of blood and the extended specimen validity and not all patients will be suitable. More specifically, the specimen validity will be restricted to 72 hours for patients who;

- Have known, historic or newly identified red cell antibodies
- Have been transfused within the last 3 months
- Have been diagnosed with a haematological disorder
- Are bled at the time of being a hospital inpatient
- Are currently pregnant, or have been pregnant within the last 3 months

The extended sample validity will be helpful for patients especially undergoing elective surgery and who satisfy the criteria's given above. Patients can present to any collection centre within 30 days prior to date of surgery.

Advantages

- This gives the transfusion lab adequate time to test the sample and exclude clinically significant blood group antibodies and make sure compatible blood is available on time. Presence of antibodies may significantly delay the availability of compatible blood if pre-transfusion sample is received just prior to surgery or on the day of surgery.
- This will result in less inconvenience for the patient as recollection of blood sample will not be required just before the surgery if patient satisfies the criteria.
- Please note for surgeries that are planned in hospitals greater than 15kms from the CBD, please request 'group and crossmatch' rather than 'group and hold' so that units for patients are available on site well before the surgery.
- In other instances, please request 'group and hold' instead of 'group and cross match' for patients who are least likely to be transfused. This will help to reduce wastage and also replenish blood bank inventory.
- There will be no delay in issue of blood for these patients if the need arises as e-issue allows in electronically releasing blood immediately from any one of our hospital labs without the requirement for physical crossmatch or sample to be onsite.

It is also extremely important that the transfusion laboratory (P: 08 8418 3507) is informed of any changes to patient transfusion status prior to admission to hospital as this may have significant clinical impact on patient's transfusion.

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