

LABORATORY BLOOD BANK STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES MANUAL	<b>CRITERIA OF SAMPLES FOR COMPATIBILITY TESTING</b>
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Unless otherwise stated, Blood Bank Specimens are collected in the following manner:

- A. No special preparation of the patient is required prior to specimen collection.
- B. Blood should be drawn by an aseptic technique in a K<sub>2</sub>EDTA plastic (pink top) tube, and the plasma separated from the cells as soon as possible.
- C. If delay in testing should occur, the specimen must be stored at 2-8° C for no longer than 48 hours.
- D. When drawing a tube for Type and Screen or Crossmatch, please use the Ident-A Band labeling system. See procedure following.
- E. Proper identification of the patient and correct labeling of the specimen must be a priority.

#### I. PROPER TUBE LABELING:

- A. The collection of a properly labeled blood sample from the correct patient is critical to safe blood transfusion. The person who draws the blood sample must identify the patient in a positive manner by comparing the information on the request labels with the information on the wristband. The patient must give their name and date of birth. If they are unable to do this, a nurse or family member must be able to ID the patient. All information must match: labels, ID bracelet, and stated name and date of birth.
- B. If there is a discrepancy with any of the above information, the sample must not be collected until the discrepancies are investigated.
- C. The phlebotomist must not rely on a bed tag, or on charts or records placed on the bed, or in the patient's room. In the absence of a wristband, remind nursing staff that the patient must have a wristband to validate identification at the time of transfusion and ask that one be placed on the patient before drawing the patient.
- D. **All specimens must be labeled with at the very least patient's name and Date of birth, and with the BB numbered ID Band, in the presence of the patient.**
- E. At this time place a Blood Bank Ident-A Band numbered ID band on the patient's wrist. (See Ident-A Band procedure, this manual, for specific instructions).
- F. When the patient's identity is unknown, use an Ident-A band writing some sort of description of patient, such as approximate age, male or female, etc., using the special Ident-A Band # so that it will be possible to match with the identity of the patient when it is known. This may be the case with trauma cases in the emergency room before patient's names are known.
- G. Make sure Ident-A bands are in place and the Ident-A number matches the numbered Ident-A Band specimen tube label from label sheet that is placed on crossmatch specimen tube. This is especially important when drawing more than one unidentified trauma victim in the same time period.<sup>1</sup>

#### II. SPECIMENS FOR COMPATIBILITY TESTING

- A. Samples must be drawn by an aseptic technique into a K<sub>2</sub>EDTA plastic (pink top) tubes. These have been approved for use by the vendor and by our Blood Bank for use in compatibility testing.
- B. If possible samples must not be drawn from a central line. If it absolutely necessary to do so, have nurse waste at least 6-7 ml. first.
- C. Samples must be properly labeled from the correct patient. **ALWAYS AGAIN RECHECK** the patient information on the bracelet with the information on the request or the lab generated labels ordered from the request, with the patient's stated name and date of birth. If any information does not match, do not draw the patient.
- D. It will be necessary to investigate any discrepancies. If the information matches, proceed with Ident-A Band ID bracelet.
- E. As soon as the sample is drawn affix the appropriate specimen label from the Ident-A

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label sheet to the tube. This must be done **AT THE BEDSIDE**.

- F. If a lab generated label is available, it can be placed over the Ident-A label so that the recipient number can still be seen. If the label is not available yet, write the patient's name and date of birth, at the very least, on the Ident-A label so that the lab label can be placed over the name later. If the label must be attached later, it is important to again carefully compare information to assure that the tube is properly labeled. **(See Ident-A Procedure, this manual)**.
- G. The phlebotomist must initial the tube.<sup>2</sup> The tube should not be accepted as a specimen for compatibility testing without the phlebotomists initials.
- H. The time and date of collection is on the label that is put on the tube. If a computer generated label is not available, the time and date of collection must be written on the tube. The Ident-A label sheet and the request labels must go to blood bank with the specimen. Before any testing is done, the Blood Bank technologist must cross check all the identifying information on the tube to see if it exactly matches the information on the request labels.

### III. STORAGE OF SPECIMENS

- A. Compatibility testing must be done on specimens that were drawn no more than three days prior to testing if the patient has received blood or been pregnant in the last three months.
- B. Because of uncertain histories this standard is used for all our samples. Any blood that has been crossmatched for three days and has not been given must be released. If blood is still needed, a new sample must be drawn, and all testing should be repeated.<sup>3</sup>
- C. The one exception to this is autologous units. Once crossmatched in our facility, following proper crossmatch procedures, they do not have to be recrossed.

### IV. PRE-OP PATIENTS AND THE TYPE AND SCREEN PROCEDURE

- A. Samples that are from Pre-op patients and are for a "type and screen" procedure should have been drawn using the Ident-A labels and bracelet. As soon as the type and screen has been completed, the tubes must be covered and refrigerated at 2-8C.
- B. These are kept in a separate rack on the top shelf of the reagent refrigerator. They can be used up to 48 hours from the time they were drawn.
- C. At the end of the 48 hours, the specimen can be placed in the appropriate daily rack. Make sure the crossed blood is given within 72 hours from the time the specimen was drawn or it must be released.
- D. The Ident-A band must be on the patient before blood can be given.
- E. Pre-admission laboratory testing poses a special problem for the blood bank if the patient's wristband is not kept on between the times of specimen collection and transfusion. A new specimen will need to be recollected and the entire procedure repeated if this is the case.

### V. DISCHARGED PATIENTS

- A. If a patient has crossmatched blood ready and is discharged from the hospital, that blood must be released.
- B. If the patient is readmitted later, the patient must be redrawn and the blood must be recrossed.
- C. The one exception to this is if the patient is moved to a different patient status, such as to Skilled Nursing or Rehab, so that their patient number changes, the blood would not have to be recrossed as long as the Ident-A bracelet and all the labels match as they should and it is within the 72 hour time period.

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**VI. STORAGE OF SPECIMENS AFTER TESTING**

Blood specimen from donors and recipients are kept at 1-6°C 10 days after compatibility testing to ensure compliance of standard:

A stoppered or sealed sample of each donor blood and each recipient blood shall be stored at 1-6°C for at least 7 days after transfusion.<sup>4</sup>

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***See original policy in the Laboratory for all documented annual reviews.***

References:

1. Technical Manual, 11th ed., American Associating of Blood Banks, 1993, p. 310.
2. Standards for Blood Banks & Transfusion Services, 14th ed., American Association of Blood Banks, 1991, pp. 30-31.
3. Ibid. p. 32.
4. Ibid. p. 36.

Blood Bank Standard Operating Procedures Manual, Laboratory Collection Manual, Laboratory Standard Operating Procedures Manual