

**CONWAY REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM
CLINICAL LABORATORY**

Blood Bank Orders and Blood Bank Products

PURPOSE

To inform nursing services concerning policies on blood bank orders and blood product usage.

POLICY

1. **Type and crossmatch:** Blood will be set up and held for 3 days from the date of specimen collection. If the blood is not used within 3 days, the crossmatched blood will be released without notice. The patient may need to be re-crossmatched if transfusion is indicated on the fourth day. Patients without proper blood bank wristbands in place will require new wristbands and new crossmatch prior to transfusion. Anticipated date and time that transfusion may be needed should be noted, if known.
2. **Type and screen:** NO BLOOD WILL BE SET UP FOR THIS PROCEDURE. When a blood transfusion is indicated, the blood sample that was drawn for the type and screen will be used to perform the crossmatch. If the situation is urgent, notify the blood bank by telephone. The blood bank will have the blood ready within 15 minutes provided the type and screen is negative.
3. **Keep units of blood on hand:** Put a comment on the crossmatch order specifying how many units need to be kept on hand for that patient. The blood bank will be responsible for keeping the exact amount of blood on hand. This order expires in three days. After three days another crossmatch must be ordered and another specimen drawn in order to keep blood on hand for that patient.
4. **Request for Cryo, FFP and platelets:** **Cryo** products expire within 4 hours after they are thawed and pooled. Fresh frozen plasma (**FFP**) expires in 24 hours from the time of thaw. Because of the short expiration time, the blood bank will not thaw or pool these products until a call is received from the nursing unit telling when they are ready to transfuse these products. A minimum of 30 minutes is required to thaw and prepare FFP or Cryo. **Platelets** are routinely stocked as single donor pheresis units. A limited quantity of platelet products are available and the blood bank should be notified in advance of platelet orders.
5. **Orders for albumin:** Albumin is stocked by the pharmacy. Orders for albumin are not placed with the laboratory. Gamma globulin is also stocked by pharmacy.
6. **Unused blood products:** All unused or unfinished blood products must be returned to the blood bank immediately. If blood products cannot be infused to a patient due to IV problems or difficult vein, RETURN THE PRODUCT TO THE BLOOD BANK IMMEDIATELY FOR PROPER STORAGE AND/OR DISPOSAL. A product that has been out of the laboratory storage units must be discarded if not transfused or returned to the laboratory within 20 minutes.
7. **Surgical cases:** Blood crossmatched for surgical cases may be issued simultaneously to the OR in blood transport coolers. The surgical staff must call in advance to request that the blood be prepared for cooler storage and

transport. See specific procedure. Units for a single case are to be packaged in labeled plastic carriers/coolers. Units not utilized during the case will be immediately returned to the Lab for storage. No units will be stored overnight in the OR carriers/coolers. All quality control measures pertaining to storage of blood and blood components will apply to the OR carriers/coolers. Returned coolers must be checked back into laboratory storage immediately upon return and temps must be verified by laboratory staff.

- 8. **Non-surgical cases:** No more than 1 unit per patient will be issued at a time. At the discretion of the medical technologist, 2 units may be issued for a single patient in an emergency situation to PACU, ER, or CCU. Two units may be issued only if both units are to be infused simultaneously (or in no more than 15 minutes). Under no circumstances may blood be stored in unmonitored refrigeration units.
- 9. **Autologous and Directed Donations:** Autologous and directed donation of blood products are accepted in coordination with American Red Cross Blood Services, Little Rock, Arkansas. Note the following guidelines:
 - a. Both autologous (donations for self) and directed (donations for another) require a physician order. STAT availability is not possible.
 - b. Such donations must be coordinated through "Special Collections" of ARC, Little Rock. Phone number 501-614-4525.
 - c. Autologous units will be held for the intended recipient until expiration of the unit.
 - d. Directed units will be held for the intended recipient until 5 days post discharge, then released to the general stock.

PREPARED BY: Marianne S. Welch/LeaAnn Smith 05/20/05

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE _____
(Medical Director)

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE _____