Section B: Ordering Blood Transfusion Laboratory (BTL) Tests

I. Computer System Information

All Blood Transfusion Laboratory tests are resulted in Cerner Millennium. All results are available on the Flowsheet in Cerner. Information on specimen outdate, availability of products and history of products transfused in the last 6 months, can best be seen using the Blood Product Information tab in Cerner. The information on this page may be updated at any time, so do NOT print and place in patient chart.

II. Group and Reserve and Specimen Outdate

Group and Reserve may also be ordered by the physician as a *Group and Hold*, *Group and Type*, *Group and Crossmatch* or *Group and Screen*. They all refer to the same test, therefore are no longer listed as an option in Cerner. Order a Group and Reserve.

- If Packed Red Blood Cells (PRBCs) are requested for transfusion, order a Group and Reserve and place a separate order for PRBC.
- If PRBCs are to be on hand (no order for transfusion) a Group and Reserve is all that is required. Place the order for PRBC when an order for transfusion is written.

The expiry date of the current Group and Reserve is best viewed using the Blood Product Information tab. It can also be viewed on the Flowsheet under the Blood Transfusion Lab section.

Indication	Outdate
Neonates less than 4 months of age	4 mths from Date of Birth
- Adult under hematologist's care - Pediatric patient on chemotherapy - Placenta previa	3 days
Preadmit Patients • Cesarean section • Transfused or pregnant in past 3 months • All other Preadmit patients	 3 days 3 days 2 months
All others, including Inpatients, OutPatients, Dialysis and ER* patients	3 days

* All new admissions to the Emergency Department must have a new specimen drawn even if the previous specimen has not outdated. Only ABO/Rh confirmation on new specimen will be completed if the previous specimen is not outdated (<5 minutes to complete)

III. Processing an Order for BTL Tests in Cerner

1. Check Physician/Nurse Practitioner's written order.
2. Order the appropriate BTL test in Cerner. Complete all required fields.
3. Use the following chart to determine the priority of the order:

Priority	Description
Routine	Transfusion is not required for at least 2 hours from the time the specimen is received in the BTL, or an order to transfuse has not yet been written
Urgent	Transfusion is required 45 minutes from the time the specimen is received in the BTL
Uncrossmatched blood	Patient's clinical condition dictates that transfusion is required in **less than 45 minutes.** Requisition must be signed in designated section by the requesting physician. See *Uncrossmatched Blood.*

4. Take printed labels to the patient's side. See Section C: Collection and Delivery of BTL specimens.
5. *Computer Downtime:* The BTL requisition is required. Requisition and label must be either handwritten or addressograph stamped. Full name and PIN must be complete, legible and identical on both the requisition and label. DOB, attending physician and location must also appear on the requisition. See below for Completing the BTL Requisition.

IV. Processing an Order for BTL Confirmation Test (BTLCT)

As of March 31, 2008, confirmation of a patient's blood group will be required prior to the release of ABO group specific PRBCs from the Blood Transfusion Lab (BTL). If there is no confirmation of the blood group and PRBCs are required, Group O PRBCs will be issued until confirmation is received. For all Group and Reserve orders the confirmation will take place in one of two ways:

1. Comparison to the blood group on file from a previous request
2. Testing of a second specimen

The Blood Transfusion Laboratory will determine whether a confirmation specimen is required. This is resulted in Cerner as either "Blood Group Confirmed" or "Additional specimen required for confirmation of blood group". If additional specimen is required, order BTLCT in Cerner, and draw specimen with the next scheduled blood work, or if patient is bleeding, as soon as possible. Group O PRBCs will be issued, if required, until BTLCT is received and tested.
This is a patient safety initiative designed to prevent transfusion of incompatible blood. For this initiative to be effective the BTLCT should NOT be taken at the same time as the original Group and Reserve specimen. It requires a 2nd venipuncture and a 2nd confirmation of patient identification.

V. Completing the BTL Requisition

The requisition is only required for ordering BTL tests during computer downtime or for patient care areas that do not have access to Order/Entry. It is also used to record the signature of the physician requesting uncrossmatched blood. Refer to the London Laboratory Services Group (LLSG) Blood Transfusion Laboratory Requisition.

1. Place the following patient's information in the upper right hand corner of the requisition:
    a. the patient's surname and given name (no abbreviations)
    b. Patient Identification Number (PIN) or LRCC number
    c. patient location
    d. gender
    e. date of birth (yyyy.mm.dd)

   The patient information can be handwritten or addressograph stamped.

2. Indicate the following:
    a. whether the patient has been transfused or pregnant within the last three months, and if possible, include the name of the hospital where transfused
    b. test required
    c. diagnosis/procedure
    d. date and time of procedure if known
    e. priority of red cell transfusion requirement (see chart on previous page) and number of units required, if applicable

3. Phlebotomist must **sign** (initials or computer codes are not acceptable) the requisition confirming that the patient identification band was checked with the specimen label and requisiton and found to match. In patient care areas where patients do not wear an identification band, unequivocal identification of the patient MUST be accomplished. (See Section C – III Drawing Blood Specimens on Patients that do NOT have an armband.) Record the date and time that the specimen was drawn.

4. **At LHSC**: The canary portion of the requisition accompanies the specimen to the BTL. The white copy of the requisition may be placed in the BTL report section of the patient's chart..

   At SJHC: During downtime, the single white copy accompanies the specimen to the BTL.