

Section N: Non-UH/VH Hospital Sites - Request and Issue of Blood Products

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I. General Principles

Hospitals which are part of London Health Sciences Centre or St. Joseph's Health Care but do not have a Blood Transfusion Laboratory (BTL) within the facility will have all blood products provided by either University Hospital (UH) or Victoria Hospital (VH). Staff involved in the administration of the blood product must be trained and competent in this process. Currently the following hospitals have arrangements in place for blood products to be provided from either UH or VH:

- St. Joseph's Health Care, 268 Grosvenor St.
- Parkwood Hospital, 801 Commissioners Rd E
- Renal Dialysis Unit, South Street Hospital
- London Satellite Hemodialysis Unit, Baseline Road.

The following sections of the Blood Transfusion Resource Manual are applicable to these hospitals and should also be reviewed:

- [Informed Consent for Transfusion](#)
- [Ordering Blood Transfusion Laboratory \(BTL\) Tests](#)
- [Collection and Delivery of BTL Specimens](#)
- [Requests for Blood Products](#)
- [Storage and Return of Blood Products](#)
- [Issue and Receipt of Blood Products](#)
- [Administration of Blood Products](#)
- [Adverse Effects of Blood Transfusion / TRAC](#)
- [ABO Compatibility Table](#)
- [Blood Products \(see specific products\)](#)

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II. St. Joseph's Health Care (St. Joseph's)

The following algorithms are available:

- [Algorithm](#) for Packed Red Cell Transfusions at St Joseph's
- [Algorithm](#) for Other Blood Products Required at St Joseph's

Specimen Testing

Blood Transfusion Lab testing is done off site at either UH or VH.

1. Draw specimens as per [Section C: Collection of Specimens](#).

CORE LAB HOURS: 7am to 9pm

2. Take to St Joseph's Core Lab (B2-202).
3. If STAT, specimens will be sent by taxi immediately.
4. If Routine, specimens will be sent with the next scheduled courier.

AFTER HOURS: 9pm to 7am

Refer to Laboratory Services After Hours Instructions

Request for Packed Red Cells (RBC)

1. 10 units of O Negative RBC are available on-site at St Joseph's (Room B6-633). O Negative RBCs are "uncrossmatched" but compatible with all ABO / Rh blood groups and can be given when transfusion is required immediately (less than 30 minutes)
 - a. If a Group and Reserve is already done, and the antibody screen is negative, the Group O Negative units are compatible and are safe to transfuse
 - b. If a Group and Reserve is already done, and the antibody screen is positive – it is best to wait until crossmatched blood for the patient is transported to St Joseph's. NOTE: The St Joseph's OR list is being reviewed daily and all patients with a positive antibody screen, will have blood crossmatched and transported to St Joseph's Core Lab to be on hand for the duration of their surgery. For all other St Joseph's inpatients whose Group and Reserve specimen shows the presence of an antibody, blood will be crossmatched and stored in the UH BTL for as long as the Group and Reserve specimen is in date. When blood is required, transport time is less than 30 minutes.
 - c. If there is NO Group and Reserve tested for the patient, Group O Negative RBCs are ABO / Rh compatible, but there is a risk that red cell antibodies could cause decreased survival of transfused cells. Draw a Group and Reserve specimen immediately and transport STAT to the Core Lab at St Joseph's.
2. Follow [RBC Transfusion Algorithm](#). Remember to call UH BTL 33441 when removing RBC from fridge to ensure that additional blood for this patient, if required, is sent immediately.

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Group O Negative Uncrossmatched Blood FORM

1. This form is attached to ALL O Negative RBCs in the blood fridge in Room B6-633. The bottom part of the form has been completed by the BTL.
2. When O Negative blood is required, this form must go with the RBC to the patient care area.
3. Top section of the form records the attending physician's name / signature and must be completed. If more than 1 RBC is transfused to the same patient, the attending physician only has to sign one form.
4. The patient demographics in the middle section of the form must be completed for ALL RBC transfused. As with all blood transfusions, date, time, hung by and checked by section must be completed.
5. Form is faxed to 33798, and original is placed in the Laboratory Section of the chart. This becomes the documentation for this transfusion.
6. When fax is received by the BTL, the patient transfusion history will be updated with correct date and time of transfusion.

Request for Blood Products

1. All blood products are ordered in Cerner. The order is transmitted electronically to the UH Blood Transfusion Lab.
(Computer downtime: call the BTL (33441) and give verbal order stating patient name, PIN, type of product, dose and time required)
2. When the blood product(s) is to be transported to St Joe's for transfusion, a pick-up order is also placed in Cerner. This order is also transmitted immediately to the UH BTL. Based on when the blood product is required at St Joe's as indicated in the pick-up order, either a taxi or the regularly scheduled courier will be used to transport the product.
(Computer downtime: The [Issue Voucher](#) is faxed to the UH BTL (33798) and a phone call is made to ensure that the BTL has received the fax)
3. The Blood Product Information tab/page in Cerner has 4 sections (pending orders, available products, dispensed products and transfused products). The status of the order can be tracked using this page. For example, the time that the product was dispensed from the UH BTL can be seen on this page and anticipated time of arrival can be calculated.

NOTE: To review how to place orders for blood products in Cerner, please refer to the [Web Based Training](#) modules: (LHSC or St Joe's home page / Staff Services / EPR Online Computer Software Training / Electronic Ordering of Blood Transfusion)

Issue of Blood Product to St Joseph's

1. All products will be issued in a cooler (or container) designed to keep the product at its required temperature for an extended period of time. The time that the product must be either transfused or returned is clearly marked on the label of the cooler. The cooler label

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will also have the patient's PIN (J#) and the location and phone extension as indicated on the Issue Voucher

2. The scheduled courier will be used when appropriate, but all STAT requests for blood products will be sent by taxi. The BTL will determine type of transport required and will arrange for the transport of product to St Joseph's.
 - CORE LAB HOURS - 7am to 9pm: products will be delivered to the Core Lab (B2-202) at St Joseph's.
 - Core Lab will call the phone extension listed on issue voucher when container arrives in the Core Lab. It is the responsibility of the patient care area to arrange for pickup of the blood product(s). Person picking up the cooler needs to know the patient location and PIN (J#) to ensure that the right cooler is picked up. Take cooler to patient care area before opening or removing product.
 - AFTER HOURS - 9pm to 7am products will be delivered to Security Area Grosvenor Entrance #2 (by the revolving doors).
 - **After hours**: Security will page the Attendant when taxi arrives at Entrance #2 with container. Attendant will deliver container to patient location listed on issue voucher.
3. The cooler will have a tamper-evident seal to ensure product arrives under appropriate conditions. This should not be removed until it arrives at the patient location.

Receipt of Blood Product in the Patient Care Area

1. Ensure tamper-evident seal is on cooler. Cut off and open cooler.
2. If more than one product has been requested (example: 2 PRBCs), remove only one at a time, leaving the other product in closed cooler until ready to transfuse. Keep cooler in a safe location, away from possible contamination, tampering or confidentiality concerns.
3. Take product to be transfused to patient bedside and complete patient and product verification according to [Section G: Issue and Receipt of Blood Products](#).
4. Ensure that transfusion of product is completed within 4 hours of the time the product was removed from the cooler
5. When all products are transfused or when transfusion order has been discontinued and before the time indicated on the Cooler label, return cooler to St Joseph's Core Lab (B2-202)
6. If any product remaining in cooler – call 33441 for instructions.
7. To report any reactions or concerns, call 33441.

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III. Parkwood Hospital / Renal Dialysis South St / London Satellite Hemodialysis Baseline Rd

Algorithm: Blood Products at Parkwood / Dialysis Units (South St or Baseline Rd)

Specimen Testing

1. All specimens are tested at VH Blood Transfusion Lab (BTL)
2. Draw specimens as per [Section C: Collection of Specimens](#)
3. Arrange for transportation to the VH BTL (800 Commissioner's Rd E. Room D1-230)

Request for Blood Products

1. All blood products are ordered in Cerner. The order is transmitted electronically to the VH Blood Transfusion Lab.
(Computer downtime: call the BTL (58292) and give verbal order stating patient name, PIN, type of product, dose and time required)
2. When the blood product(s) is to be transported for transfusion, a pick-up order is also placed in Cerner. This order is also transmitted immediately to the VH BTL. Based on when the blood product is required as indicated in the pick-up order a taxi will be used for transport
(Computer downtime: The [Issue Voucher](#) is faxed to the VH BTL (58471) and a phone call is made to ensure that the BTL has received the fax)
3. The Blood Product Information tab /page in Cerner has 4 sections (pending orders, available products, dispensed products and transfused products). The status of the order can be tracked using this page

NOTE: To review how to place orders for blood products in Cerner, please refer to the [Web Based Training](#) modules: (LHSC or St Joe's home page / Staff Services / EPR Online Computer Software Training / Electronic Ordering of Blood Transfusion)

Issue of Blood Product(s)

1. All products will be issued in a cooler (or container) designed to keep the product at its required temperature for an extended period of time. The time that the product must be either transfused or returned is clearly marked on the cooler label; cooler label will also have the patient's PIN and the location and phone extension as indicated on the Issue Voucher.
2. All products that can be infused within 6 hours will be transported in the same cooler at the same time.
3. The BTL will call and pay for taxi. For deliveries to Parkwood, the BTL will call the patient care area as soon as the taxi leaves the BTL at VH, allowing personnel to meet the taxi driver at the hospital entrance. For deliveries to the dialysis areas, the taxi driver will deliver directly to patient care area
4. The cooler will have a tamper-evident seal to ensure product arrives under appropriate conditions. This should be in place when the cooler arrives at the patient location.

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Receipt of Blood Product in the Patient Care Area

1. Ensure tamper-evident seal is on cooler. Cut off and open cooler.
2. If more than one product has been requested (example: 2 RBCs), remove only one at a time, leaving the other product in closed cooler until ready to transfuse. Keep cooler in a safe location, away from possible contamination, tampering or confidentiality concerns.
3. Take product to be transfused to patient bedside and complete patient and product verification according to [Section G: Issue and Receipt of Blood Products](#).
4. Ensure that transfusion of product is completed within 4 hours of the time the product was removed from the cooler
4. When all products are transfused or when transfusion order has been discontinued and before the time indicated on the cooler label, return cooler by taxi to VH BTL (800 Commissioner's Rd E. Room D1-230). This address is on the reverse side of the cooler label. Taxi cost for return trip is the responsibility of the patient care area.
5. Any questions, or to report any reactions or concerns, call 58292.