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**Introduction**

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**The Role of the Blood Transfusion Laboratory**

The Blood Transfusion Laboratory (BTL) is committed to providing the highest possible standard of service to patients and user departments. The role of the BTL is to provide accurate results of ordered BTL tests and safe and timely blood product transfusions for the patients of both London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) and St Joseph's Health Care (SJHC). This is achieved by working with members of other health care teams and health care providers within LHSC and SJHC.

The BTL works with the Canadian Blood Services (CBS) to ensure there is an adequate inventory of blood products for patient needs. The BTL performs pre-transfusion testing to provide serologically compatible blood products to patients based on currently accepted practice. Serological testing for diagnosis of immune disorders, or evaluation of certain diseases, is also done. The Laboratory aspects of the Blood and Marrow Transplant Program are provided by the BTL. The BTL also assists in providing Tissue Banking services for LHSC and SJHC.

BTL policies must comply with the most recent Standards such as those published by Health Canada and the Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine and/or the American Association of Blood Banks. The policies must also follow the guidelines of the CBS as presented in the most recent edition of the ["Circular of Information for the use of Human Blood and Blood Components."](#)

**Blood Product Supply**

Blood products are provided by the Canadian Blood Services (CBS) without direct cost to patients in hospitals in Canada. The fee for compatibility testing and the administration of the blood product is covered by global hospital funding.

Every effort is made to fill blood product orders as requested. During times of full staffing, inability to fill an order is unusual if sufficient advance notice is given. If difficulty is encountered due to an incompatibility or to a shortage of supply, the nurse in charge of the patient (or another nurse on the unit) will be notified. **The nurse is responsible for relaying this information to the physician or surgeon.**

Clinicians are asked to encourage relatives and friends of transfused patients to donate blood at their local CBS Blood Donor Clinic.

Clinics are held at various locations in London and Southwestern Ontario. For information on locations, dates and times, call 1-888-2-DONATE. Additional information about the CBS may be found at [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca)

The permanent clinic in London is located at 840 Commissioners Road E.

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## Introduction

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### The Purpose of the Blood Transfusion Resource Manual

This Resource Manual is a document that will provide information on processes at LHSC and SJHC. It is a document that will be reviewed and revised regularly and therefore is being provided as an electronic copy only. Printed pages must be compared to the electronic version, before use to ensure the most current reference is available.

#### **Disclaimer**

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this manual is accurate, complete, inclusive of both LHSC and SJHC practices and up-to-date. This Resource Manual is not a substitute to the Health Care Practitioner's knowledge, skills or judgement but rather should be used as an additional resource available to assist in the care of patients that require transfusion of blood and blood products.

#### **Acknowledgements**

We acknowledge the efforts of the many people involved in the first versions of the Blood Transfusion Manual, initially at Victoria Hospital and most recently with the 1999 edition of the London Health Sciences Centre -Blood Transfusion Manual. These previous manuals served as a basis for this current version. This is the first London Laboratory Services Group (LLSG) Transfusion Resource Manual, and we are indebted to all those that were involved in the previous manuals, as well as the many persons involved in the writing, formatting, and proofing of this manual. We would like to acknowledge all the thoughtful suggestions and the constructive criticism that was received by those at St Joseph's Health Care (SJHC) and London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) during the often long process of trying to provide a resource manual that is sufficient in detail, while attempting to be inclusive of all the varied specific patient care area policies and practices.

#### **Contact Information**

For omissions or concerns with any of the information in this manual please contact:

Kathleen Eckert, ART  
Transfusion Safety Officer LLSG  
519-685-8500 ext 55303  
[Kathleen.Eckert@lhsc.on.ca](mailto:Kathleen.Eckert@lhsc.on.ca)

For information about the Blood Transfusion Laboratory, please contact:

Jeff Kinney, ART  
Technical Specialist LLSG  
519-685-8500 ext 52195  
[Jeff.Kinney@lhsc.on.ca](mailto:Jeff.Kinney@lhsc.on.ca)

For Medical or Clinical information regarding blood transfusion, please contact:

Dr Ian Chin-Yee,  
Medical Director, Blood Transfusion Laboratory LLSG  
519-685-8500 ext 55192  
[Ian.Chin-Yee@lhsc.on.ca](mailto:Ian.Chin-Yee@lhsc.on.ca)