



Transfusion Service Changes Whakatane hospital

Due to accreditation requirements, effective 0800 on 17th of February 2020, blood products and components that have been issued to patients will no longer be stored in the blood fridge outside of the Whakatane hospital laboratory for uplift by clinical staff.

Collection of issued blood and blood products will be distributed directly from the Transfusion laboratory upon presentation of the Blood Transfusion Record (Pink Form) which must state clearly what component/product and quantity is required at that time. Both clinical staff and orderlies can present the "Pink Form" to the laboratory reception. For most Red Blood Cell issues, this will take no more than a few minutes.

In the case of a patient having a positive antibody screen or having special requirements that mean crossmatching of blood may take longer than usual, the clinical staff will be notified. Blood for that patient will then be reserved when available and issued when required as above upon presentation of the 'Pink Form'.

3 units of Uncrossmatched Emergency O Negative Red Cells will continue to be stored in the fridge outside the laboratory, available at all times for emergency situations where there is insufficient time to allow for group specific or fully crossmatched blood to be sourced. Access to these will remain unchanged. Each red cell unit is attached to a tracking form which must be completed and returned to the laboratory as soon as possible.

The Whakatane laboratory is staffed between 0800 and 0000 hours. An on-call system operates between 0000 and 0800 hours, therefore if a transfusion must occur during these hours, the on-call laboratory staff member will need to be called in if not already on site.

Eleanore McDonald, Specialist Scientist Transfusion, 07 306 0776
Jared Pratt, Specialist Scientist Transfusion, 07 578 7073 ext 6707
Mark Howard, Lead of Specialty Transfusion, 07 578 7073 ext 6707

**Please ensure all members of your institution
receive a copy of this clinical update.**