

**BLOOD BANDS – WHEN TO REMOVE THEM**

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Joseph Medical Center Tacoma, WA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Clare Hospital Lakewood, WA     | <input type="checkbox"/> St. Elizabeth Hospital Enumclaw, WA |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Francis Hospital Federal Way, WA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Anthony Hospital Gig Harbor, WA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PSC                      |

**PURPOSE**

To provide guidance to phlebotomy staff as to when it is acceptable to remove an existing blood band from the patient’s wrist.

**BACKGROUND**

It is vitally important that a blood band remain on the patient until the associated blood bank specimen expires. When a blood band is removed before it expires, the specimen must be recollected, all testing must be repeated, and charges for the original testing must be credited.

These unnecessary events are time-consuming, expensive, and cause delays in patient care. Thus, blood bands should only be removed by phlebotomists when the associated specimen has expired, and always with assistance from the blood bank staff.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

R-W-TS0100            Labeling Pre-Transfusion Specimens

**SUPPLIES / EQUIPMENT**

Scissors

**STEPS**

1. Blood bands come in many colors: yellow, orange, red, green, and blue. They currently come in two different styles as well: the Secureline Identiband (hand-written) and the Typenex Bar-coded Band (uses a hospital patient label.) The styles and colors are facility-based when placed on the patient. However, if the patient is transferred to another FHS hospital the blood band is still acceptable for use. Never cut off any blood band because it is an unaccustomed color or style of band.
2. If, at the time of a pending collection, the patient already has a blood bank identification band, **DO NOT remove the band** until you determine if it has expired. Some bands are good for three days while others are good for 14 days, so it is not always easy to tell.
3. In every case, immediately pick up a phone and call 426-6654 or 127-6654 (on-net) to reach the Transfusion Service at SJMC.
4. Ask a Transfusion Service technologist to check the patient’s history to determine if the blood band currently attached to the patient is still good to use. The technologist may wish to know the date and time of collection for that band as well as the blood band’s unique number.
5. **If band is still acceptable for use, leave the current band on the patient. Do not remove it.** Three situations fall into this category as outlined in the table below.

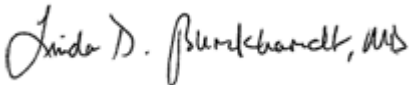
Situation	Actions to Take
The transfusion service already has enough specimen to complete new patient orders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not draw any blood bank specimens from the patient</li> </ul>
An additional tube of blood is needed to complete new patient orders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draw another specimen.</li> <li>Place a patient label (either hospital patient label or Cerner) on the tube, along with initials, date and time. Make sure new patient label information is identical to that on the blood band.</li> <li>Pull a BB sticker from the current blood band and place it on the tube. If a current sticker is not available, handwrite the BB ID sticker number on the specimen.</li> </ul>
The blood band is almost ready to expire. There is a unit of crossmatched blood for the patient in the blood bank with plans to transfuse it prior to the current blood band's expiration. However, a new order exists for crossmatched blood to be ready for the next day (for surgery, etc).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A <u>second</u> blood band will need to be attached to the patient along with collection of a new specimen as outlined in the work instruction "Labeling Pre-Transfusion Specimens"</li> <li>The patient should have <u>two</u> current blood bands on when the phlebotomist leaves the bedside.</li> </ul> <p><b>**Note:</b> <i>Alternatively, the transfusion service may request that the collection of the new specimen be delayed until after the pending unit has been transfused.</i></p>

**6. If the band is not acceptable for use:**

- Cut off the band
- Proceed with a new blood band as outlined in the work instruction "Labeling Pre-Transfusion Specimens"
- Collect and properly label the blood bank specimen from the patient.

**REFERENCE**

AABB Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services

<b>DOCUMENT APPROVAL Purpose of Document / Reason for Change:</b>			
12/3/12	Changed document to M rather than R scope because SEH does not use blood bands		
"	Changed title to current one from "Blood Bank ID Bands: When to Remove Them" to make it easier to search		
"	Moved some explanations into a table		
"	Minor changes to text for clarity		
<input type="checkbox"/> No significant change to process in above revision. Per CAP, this revision does not require further Medical Director approval.			
<b>Committee Approval Date</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date: 12/5/12 <input type="checkbox"/> N/A – revision of department-specific document which is used at only one facility	<b>Medical Director Approval</b> <i>(Electronic Signature)</i>	 <b>11/29/12</b>