**SUBJECT: Emergency request for blood**

**1.0 Scope:**

This policy applies to all blood bank personnel.

**2.0 Principle:**

There are situations in which a delay in transfusion may jeopardize the patient unduly and blood may be issued uncross matched or cross match compatible with a pending antibody identification.

**3.0 Procedure:**

3.1 Issue uncross matched blood, which should be:

3.1.1 Group O Red Blood Cells if the patient’s ABO group is unknown. It is preferable to give Rh-negative blood if the recipient’s Rh type is unknown, especially if the patient is female with the potential to bear children.

3.1.2 ABO and Rh compatible, if there has been time to test a current specimen. Previous records must not be used, nor should information be taken from other records, such as cards, identification tags, or driver’s license.

3.2 BEGIN COMPATIBILITY TESTS AND COMPLETE THEM PROMPTLY! If incompatibility is detected at any stage of testing, immediately notify the patient’s physician and the transfusion service physician.

3.3 An Emergency Blood Release form (LAB-82pc) must be completed when signing out an uncross matched or antibody pending unit of blood.

3.3.1 The Emergency Blood Release form must be signed by the physician. If the physician did not sign the form at the time of the emergency, signature must be obtained at earliest convenience, but within two days of the emergency. **The technical specialist in charge of blood bank, or designated coverage will follow-up to assure the physician signs the Emergency Blood Release form.**

3.4 For uncross matched blood, attach a completed "UNCROSS MATCHED BLOOD FOR" sticker to the unit (example follows in Blood Bank policy manual). Using this sticker and the Emergency Blood Release form, issue the blood according to policy. The voucher will be kept until compatibility testing is completed.

3.5 When testing is complete, all voucher(s) and logs must be completed with the required information. Be sure to comment on the voucher and in the Electronic Disposition log that the unit was “issued uncross matched”. In the case of an unidentified antibody, be sure to comment that the unit was “issued with pending antibody identification”.

3.6 Make one photocopy of the emergency request form. The original goes on the patient's chart. The other is scanned into the patient’s LIS order.

**4.0 References:**

21st Edition of Technical Manual, AABB.

34th Edition of Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services, AABB.

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