#### Processing Suspected Transfusion Reaction Blood Components

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| Background | This procedure describes the steps to follow once suspected transfusion reaction blood component specimens are submitted for culture. This testing will be part of the routine when septicemia due to contamination of the blood component is suspected. |  |

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| Policy | * This procedure must be followed when the reviewing Pathologist or protocol requests a gram stain and culture be performed.
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| Supplies | * Sampling Site Coupler- Baxter Fenwal #4C245
* Alcohol swabs
* 10 cc syringe
* Thioglycolate broth
* Glass microscope slides
* Gram Stain supplies and reagents
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| Specimen Requirements | * Blood component bag (either completely or partially transfused)
* Sample from blood product (ex: segment, filter, tubing, etc) if blood component bag unavailable
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| Procedure |

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| Step | Action |
| 1 | Use patient’s medical record number who received unit in question to place order code TRX (transfusion reaction culture and smear) in LIS* For specimen description, enter BLD-; unit number
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| 2 | Aseptically open closed port of blood donor unit (bag) and insert sampling site coupler |

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 Processing Suspected Transfusion Reaction Blood Components, Continued

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| Procedure, cont |

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| Step | Action |
| 3 | Estimate specimen volume in bag |
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|  | **If** | **Then** |  |
| <10 ml | With a syringe, add sufficient thio broth to make 10 to 12 cc fluid |
| ≥10 ml | Proceed to #4 |
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| 4 | * Wipe diaphragm of access port with alcohol swab
* Gently mix bag contents
* Invert bag
* Use 10 cc syringe to enter the bag through the access port and remove 3 to 6 ml of blood
* Leave sampler coupler in bag.
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| 5 | * Place 1-2 ml of specimen in each of three (3) properly labeled thioglycollate tubes
* Leave at RT until ready for processing
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| 6 | Place a few drops on a glass slide and prepare thin smear for Gram stain. |
| 7 | Direct Examination: Read Gram Stain ASAP |
| 8 | Return bag to Transfusion Service for storage |
| 9 | Send inoculated THIO tubes to Shared Lab Micro for culture workup and interpretation. |

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| Reporting Results | * Report gram stain results in the LIS
* Positive results will be reported to Transfusion Service immediately for physician notification.
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| Related Documents | * *Performing Gram Stain procedure*
* *Entering Direct Exam Results*
* *Auditing and Labeling Secondary Containers in the General Laboratory*
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 *End*