**Purpose:**

This procedure provides instructions for preparing 3-5% suspension of red blood cells for Hem-agglutination tube testing methods.

**Procedure:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **Action** | **Related Documents** |
| **1** | * Dispense approximately 1 inch of 0.9% saline into a labelled tube. | Labelling Tubes for Manual Bench |
| **2** | * Add one drop of patient or donor cells from a packed source. |  |
| * ***NOTE****: Steps 1 and 2 can be performed in reverse order* | | |
| **3** | * Mix the tube contents gently with a transfer pipet. |  |
| **4** | * Compare the suspension to the A1 or B reagent red cells for color intensity (3 – 3.4% red cell suspension). |  |
| **5** | * If suspension is lighter than the reagent cells:   + Add additional patient/donor cells OR   + Spin tube and remove saline.   + Mix and repeat step 4. |  |
| **6** | * If suspension is heavier than the reagent cells, * Add additional saline * Mix and repeat step 4. |  |
| **7** | * In the first reaction tube, examine the size of the cell button to confirm the suspension is within range. |  |
| **8** | * If cell button is too large or too small: * Discard test tubes * Adjust the cell suspension as in step 5 or step 6. |  |

**References:**

AABB Tech manual, Current Edition.

Judd’s Methods in Immunohematology, Current Edition.