**ISSUING BLOOD COMPONENTS IN VBECS**

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| **Approval and Revisions** |
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| Prepared by (Signature) / DateRyan McDaniel | Approved by Laboratory Medical Director (Signature/ Date)Dr. Brock Oliverio |
|  |  |
| Laboratory Manager/SMT (Signature) / DateFrank Secreto |  |
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**PRINCIPLE:**

Blood and blood components that are assigned and/or crossmatched for a patient can be issued for patient transfusion. Blood components must be issued in VBECS before they are distributed for transfusion. Both the Blood Bank staff member who issues the blood and the clinical courier who receives the unit have responsibility for properly identifying the unit.

**POLICY:**

Only one unit can be issued to one transporter at a time. There are two exceptions:

1. The Operating Room, which may take two units because of the faster rate of infusion.
2. Emergent situations in which all units issued will start being transfused within 30 minutes of issue.

**QUALITY CONTROL:**

All products are inspected upon issue for appearance, color and correct labeling, see BB-224 (Relocation of Units (Labeling Requirements))

**Use of a scanner is mandatory. Failure to use the scanner to select units can result in issue of the wrong unit to the patient.**

**PROCEDURE:**

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Service personnel removing blood or products from the Blood Bank refrigerator or incubator will enter the information in the VBECS computer system or if the computer is down, the Laboratory Technologist will fill in the Blood Bank Sign In/Sign Out Log with appropriate information and will have the courier sign it, after the following steps are completed.

1. **Log on** to VBECS
2. Select **Patients**, then **Issue Blood Component Unit** or click the **Issue Blood Component Unit** shortcut.
3. Enter the patient’s **Last Initial** and **Last 4 (SSN)** from the **Copy of the Dr’s Order** and Click **Search.**
4. If the patient has antibodies or special requirements there will be a audible alert and the special needs are displayed in bold writing in the lower right-hand panels.
5. Patient demographics, blood type, and percent of blood compatible appear in the upper right-hand panel.
6. Click **OK.**
7. Enter in the Requesting MD (the drop down arrow should default to the physician), location and name of the transporter.
8. Click **OK.**
9. Scan the **Unit ID** and **Product code** of the unit being issued.

**NOTE:** Use of a scanner is mandatory. Failure to use the scanner to select units can result in issue of the wrong unit to the patient.

**NOTE**: If the unit does not meet the patient’s transfusion requirements, the unit is expired, or the sample is expired, only a technologist with sufficient security access can bypass the VBECS message, “The following warning require and override”. The technologist must select a canned comment to document the reason or the override. This transaction is captured in the exception report.

1. If you are issuing more than one unit, click **CLEAR**, and scan in the next **Unit ID** and **Product Code.**
2. The following verification procedure from BB-224 must be verbally performed by the issuing tech along with the transporter:
3. Patient’s name and complete SS# must be the same on the Doctor’s order, the BTRF and the Caution Tag.
4. The component ordered (RBCs, FFP, etc.) must match on the Doctor’s order, the BTRF and the actual unit.
5. The ABO/Rh type of the patient and unit must be compatible and match on the BTRF and the caution tag.
6. The recipient (R number) must be the same on the Dr’s Order, BTRF, and Caution Tag.
7. The whole blood number (unit number) on the unit must match on the BTRF and the Caution Tag.
8. The expiration date on the unit must match the expiration date noted on the BTRF.

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1. ShockWatch:
	* 1. Arm the ShockWatch sensor by pressing the RED “Power” button



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* + 1. Once armed, the YELLOW “Battery” will turn GREEN.



* 1. After making sure the area is clean and dry, place the Armed Sensor in the MIDDLE of the BOTTOM on the BACK of the unit.
1. Click **OK**, then **Yes**
2. Exit VBECS

*NOTES: The Caution Tag must remain securely attached to the unit until completion of the transfusion.*

**REFERENCES:**

1. VBECS User Guide: Component Processing, Issue Blood Components
2. AABB Technical Manual, 18th Edition, American Association of Blood Banks; Bethesda, MD, 2014
3. AABB Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services, 29th Edition, American Association of Blood Banks; Bethesda, MD