



## **INSTRUCTION SHEET GUIDELINES FOR BLOOD TRANSFUSION**

### **PRINCIPLE:**

In order for a patient to be transfused, there are special requirements to protect patient safety. These requirements, as well as information regarding lead time needed for component preparation, are provided below.

### **PRE-TRANSFUSION REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **Laboratory Testing**

- For Red Blood Cell Transfusion: Order a pre-transfusion hemoglobin test.
- For Platelet Transfusion: Order a pre-transfusion platelet count.

#### **Patient Identification**

- Establish a patient Medical Record Number to ensure that the blood component is transfused to the intended patient.

#### **Sample Submission**

- Submit the patient's sample preferably 2 days prior to the scheduled transfusion.
- For Red Blood Cell transfusions, draw crossmatch samples within 3 days prior to the scheduled transfusion.
- For Platelets or Thawed Plasma transfusions:
  - For a new patient, submit a sample for ABO and Rh(D) typing.
  - For an existing patient, no specimen is required if the patient's ABO and Rh(D) typing have already been established by LifeStream.

#### **Submitting an Order**

- Orders must be submitted to LifeStream Reference Laboratory via:
  - The LifeStream Blood Bank online ordering portal, or
  - The Request for Transfusion of Blood Component Form, if portal access is unavailable.

#### **Compatibility Testing**

- Red Blood Cells: Compatibility testing must be performed by testing the patient's plasma against donor RBCs prior to transfusion.
- Platelets or Thawed Plasma: Compatibility testing is not required.

## STORAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR BLOOD PRODUCTS:

- Do not remove plastic strap on the shipping container until ready for transfusion.
- Product MUST remain in container until ready for transfusion.
- Check the container expiration date and time listed on the tag attached to the shipping container.
  - Red Blood Cell Products: Transfusion must begin within 24 hours of the time the container was packed (recorded on the tag).
  - Platelet Products: Transfusion must begin within 24 hours of the time the container was packed (recorded on the tag).
  - Thawed Plasma: Transfusion must begin within 24 hours of the time the container was packed (recorded on the tag).