LifeStream
GIVE HOPE | GIVE LIFE | GIVE BLOOD

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 days of operation and lead time needed for component preparation, are provided below.

PRE-TRANSFUSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Order a pre-transfusion hemoglobin for red blood cell transfusion request.
- Order pre-transfusion platelet count for platelet transfusion request.
- Request no more than 2 units of packed red blood cells for transfusion in a given 24-hour period.
- Establish a patient Medical Record Number to ensure that the appropriate blood is transfused to the correct patient.
- Submit the patient's sample at least two days prior to the scheduled transfusion.
- For red blood cell transfusions, draw crossmatch samples within 3 days prior to the scheduled transfusion.
- For platelet and thawed plasma transfusions:
- For a new patient, submit a sample for ABO and Rh(D) typing.
- For an existing patient, no specimen is necessary if the patient's ABO and Rh(D) have already been established by LifeStream.

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 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).