TRANSFUSION MEDICINE

Pre-Transfusion Testing Appropriateness

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There has been a recent increase in the number of pre-transfusion samples being collected for inappropriate social indications.

A reminder that pre-transfusion testing (ABO/Rh typing and antibody screen) **should not be ordered for the sole purpose of identifying a patient's blood group** or "just to know" their blood type.

This testing should only be requested when there is a clear, clinical indication and when the result is relevant to the patient's current or anticipated care such as preparing for a transfusion, pregnancy, operation or procedure, or other situations where this information is required for clinical management.

In efforts of the transfusion medicine discipline to be fiscally responsible for its limited budget, we are unable to accommodate testing for social/non-clinical indications.

If a patient wishes to know their blood group for personal information, we advise they to consider being a blood donor to contribute to the national blood supply which is always in need.

Please ensure that all pre-transfusion testing requests are supported by appropriate clinical indication. If there is uncertainty about whether testing is warranted, please consult the relevant transfusion medicine guidelines or Transfusion Medicine Physician on-call.

For all further questions or concerns please contact:

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