# GROUP O RED BLOOD CELLS EMERGENCY BLOOD MANAGEMENT

Only 6.5% of the Australian population are blood group O RhD negative but it makes up 15% to 17% of transfusion laboratory red blood cell orders

#### Let's manage our group O RhD negative red blood cells together!

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND TRANSFUSION

- A pretransfusion specimen should be obtained as soon as possible and before blood components are administered.
- Where a patient's ABO RhD blood group is unknown or has not been confirmed by current pretransfusion testing then the following applies:
  - For females of childbearing potential (≤ 50 years) and paediatric males ≤ 18 years (or as per local paediatric policy) - issue group O RhD negative uncrossmatched RBC until the patient's ABO RhD blood group has been determined using a valid current specimen.
  - For females > 50 years and all adult males > 18 years issue group O RhD positive uncrossmatched RBC until the patient's ABO RhD blood group has been determined using a valid current specimen.
  - Emergency group O red blood cells **do not need to be CMV seronegative**. In Australia, universal leucodepletion of red blood cells provides a very high level of protection against transfusion transmitted CMV, even in the event that the recipient of emergency group O red blood cells may be a pregnant woman.
  - Change to transfusion of **group specific red blood cells** when the recipient blood group is confirmed.

Read more: Lifeblood <u>Use of Group O RhD negative red cells</u>; ANZSBT <u>Guidelines for Transfusion and Immunohaematology Laboratory Practice</u>; NPAAC <u>Requirements for Transfusion Laboratory Practice</u>. See <u>blood.gov.au/group-o-negative-red-blood-cell-management</u> for more detail.



## DEVELOP A LOCAL POLICY

Develop a local policy to include using group O RhD positive red blood cells in emergency management and transfusion.

Where stocks of group O RhD negative red blood cells are limited, group O RhD positive red blood cells may be used in accordance with local policies and national guidance.

Together, we can... Ensure blood and blood products are available for those who need it most

NATIONAL BLOOD AUTHORITY

resource

Blood a vita

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