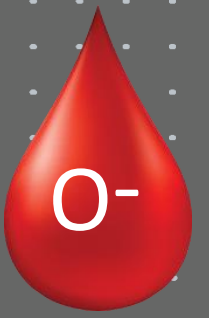


GROUP O RED BLOOD CELLS EMERGENCY BLOOD MANAGEMENT



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 [Use of Group O RhD negative red cells](#); ANZSBT [Guidelines for Transfusion and Immunohaematology Laboratory Practice](#); NPAAC [Requirements for Transfusion Laboratory Practice](#). See blood.gov.au/group-o-negative-red-blood-cell-management 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