NATIONAL BLOOD AUTHORITY
AUSTRALIA

BARCODE SPECIFICATIONS FOR BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS FUNDED UNDER THE NATIONAL BLOOD ARRANGEMENTS

5 September 2014

The National Blood Authority on behalf of all Australian governments will in all current and future procurements for blood and blood products funded under the National Blood Arrangements, require suppliers and distributors to implement the following global barcode standards in relation to funded products:

- **ISBT 128 DataMatrix** for all fresh blood products (Red Cells, Platelets, Clinical Fresh Frozen Plasma, Cryoprecipitate, Cryo-depleted Plasma and Serum Eye Drops)
- **GS1 DataMatrix** for all plasma, recombinant and diagnostic products at the level of unit packaging

In implementing these barcode standards, suppliers and distributors must ensure that:

1) Both the unit and all levels of packaging (such as the unit/vial, pack, carton etc) have the barcode applied in accordance with the relevant standard with the exception of the reusable cardboard shippers used by the Blood Service.
2) All data elements relating to the specific characteristics of a unit that may be required to be entered into a health provider's systems are provided in the barcode. However, there is no need for the recipient details of a unit (where the unit has been supplied from the supplier or distributor on a named patient basis) to be provided in a barcode.
3) All units are able to be uniquely identifiable globally, which shall be achieved through the DIN for ISBT 128 DataMatrix and through product serialisation for GS1 DataMatrix.
4) All products with different characteristics shall be assigned different product codes (for example, irradiated red cells must have a different product code than non-irradiated red cells).
5) For products labelled using ISBT 128, all relevant information is included in the National Blood Authority's National Blood Product Catalogue.
6) For products labelled using GS1 DataMatrix, all relevant information except pricing is included in the National E-Health Transition Authority's National Product Catalogue.
7) For products labelled using ISBT 128 DataMatrix, the data elements are to be those nominated by the National Blood Authority, noting that these may change over time.
8) For products labelled using GS1 DataMatrix or another GS1 barcode symbology for higher levels of packaging, the following minimum data elements must be contained in the DataMatrix, noting that suppliers may choose to include additional elements:
    a) GTIN – Global Trade Item Number (GTIN)
    b) AI (10) – Batch / Lot Number
    c) AI (17) – Expiry Date
    d) AI (21) – Serial Number
9) In addition to specific requirements for 'Human Readable Interpretation' requirements where the data contained in the barcode is reproduced for users above or below the code, all relevant information must also be included in a form that would enable a user to interpret the data without any knowledge of the relevant barcode standard (for example, Lot# ABC123).
10) All implementations of these standards is conducted in accordance with relevant Therapeutic Goods Administration regulatory requirements.