Guideline 2

Patient Identification for Specimen Collection for Pre-Transfusion Testing

Purpose

1.0 To provide best practice guidelines for nurses that align with the standards set forth by the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB), Accreditation Canada (AC, Transfusion Services, Canadian Standards Association (CSA), and the Canadian Society of Transfusion Medicine (CSTM) for positive patient identification.

Standards

1.1 At least two person-specific identifiers are used to confirm that the intended patient is receiving the planned service or procedure.

1.2 Verification of the patients identity should include patient first and last name (stated by patient when possible), and Personal Health Identification Number (PHIN) or Medical Record Number (MRN).

All specimen labels must be labeled in the presence of the patient.

The person responsible for identification of the patient and collection of the specimen must be the same person signing the tube label.

1.3 Unequivocal identification of the patient must be established. If discrepancies are discovered during the identification process, blood samples must not be collected. No blood, blood components and/or plasma protein products should be administered until the discrepancies have been resolved.

Did You Know?

Errors in sample labeling and patient identification are the leading cause of Acute Hemolytic Transfusion Reactions.

Refer to Appendix 4 Proper labeled specimen

1.4 The transfusion service shall accept only specimens with complete, accurate, and legible handwritten labels.

Policy for Patient Identification

1.5 Health care facilities/Regional Health Authorities (RHA's) in Manitoba must implement a policy for unequivocal identification of an intended patient for any and all testing related to and administration of blood, blood components, and/or plasma protein products.

1.6 A policy shall be established for patient identification where the patients identity and/or identification number are not available.

For both admitted and emergency patients, ensure that an identification band is prepared and attached to the correct patient prior to collection of the blood specimen.

NO BAND = NO BLOOD

For outpatients, positive identification using a Manitoba/RCMP/Military Health card is required.

Procedure for Pre-Transfusion Testing

1.7 Review the patient health record for informed consent and order for Type and Screen for the blood component and/or plasma product.

1.8 The CBS blood label must be affixed to the tube, once the blood is drawn in the presence of the patient. Perform two person (authorized provider) verification for correct patient in the presence of the patient.

1.9 Perform verification by confirming patients first and last name, PHIN or other unique identifier, date of birth and the phlebotomist initials.

1.10 The label should be hand written with non-smearing ink in the presence of the patient. Have patient state and spell name and date of birth whenever possible.

Refer to Appendix 5 2 sample protocol

Documentation

1.11 The phlebotomist must sign the request for pre-transfusion testing form, XM101A, and the request for Miscellaneous Testing, XM104, as applicable.