

## **Transfusion Services**

It is of utmost importance that proper patient identification and specimen labeling be done by individual drawing blood for this department. Transfusion Services personnel may refuse improperly labeled, drawn, or identified specimen or any questionable identified specimen.

### **Proper Identification of Patient**

Before laboratory personnel can do any procedure on a patient, that patient must be properly identified. Laboratory policy is that a patient must have a hospital computer generated armband on 1 of his/her extremities which contains patient's full name and medical record number. For nursery patient, a handwritten armband is prepared and attached to infant at birth.

### **Transfusion Services Recipient Armband**

Transfusion Services recipient armband procedure as follows:

- Red recipient armband offers positive identification of transfusion candidates. Attachment of armband:
  - Prior to drawing of a blood specimen for crossmatching, phlebotomist will check to see if patient has a red recipient armband.
  - If none is found, phlebotomist will request nurse to attach a red recipient armband.
  - Phlebotomist will provide nurse with red recipient armband.
  - Nurse and phlebotomist will double check patient's identification at bedside.
  - Red recipient armband must be placed on patient prior to drawing blood for a crossmatch.**
- Recording of armband number at time of draw:
  - At time of blood draw, phlebotomist will check patient's identification using regular hospital armband, initial pink-top tube(s) for Transfusion Services and write 4-digit number that is on red recipient armband on pink-top tube(s) for Transfusion Services.
  - Special care must be taken to write 4-digit number correctly and legibly.
- Identification of patient at time of transfusion:
  - At time of transfusion, the patient's name, medical record number, and 4-digit number are to be checked at bedside by transfusionist and a second person against patient information on unit tag.
  - Armband number is then recorded on transfusion record. These numbers must be identical before blood can be given.
  - Report any discrepancies immediately to Transfusion Services.
- Reattachment or removal of recipient armbands:
  - If it is necessary to remove a red recipient armband, follow this procedure so that patient will not have to be recrossmatched:
    - Obtain a new empty plastic hospital armband holder and take it to patient's bedside before removal of red recipient armband.
    - Remove red recipient armband from patient.
    - Trim red recipient armband so that 1 1/2 to 2 inches remains on each side of 4-digit number.
    - Insert trimmed, red recipient armband into plastic hospital armband holder. **Do not place anything else in with trimmed red recipient armband. Place on same extremity that has hospital computer generated armband.**
    - Place plastic hospital armband containing trimmed red recipient armband on patient.
    - If patient's armband had already been removed, it is necessary to confirm patient's identification and to call Transfusion Services (ext. 7395) and verify that 4-digit number belongs to that patient before following this procedure.