

FAQ - Emergency Use of Group O RhD Positive Red Blood Cells

This fact sheet provides answers to some frequently asked questions arising from the use of group O RhD positive red blood cells (RBC) in the emergency setting. This is intended as a guide only. Please consult with your hospital blood bank/transfusion laboratory or haematologist if further guidance is required.

What if an RhD negative female of childbearing potential ≤ 50 years was transfused with O RhD positive RBC in an emergency?

- Blood bank/transfusion laboratory to notify the treating clinical team.
- Discussion with patient/carer is required regarding the risk of RhD alloimmunisation and possible impact on future pregnancies and the need for any additional monitoring. This should be done by treating clinical team, with advice from haematologist where required.

What if an RhD negative male ≤ 18 years old was transfused with O RhD positive RBC in an emergency?

- No specific action required.

What if an RhD negative female > 50 years old or male > 18 years old was transfused with O RhD positive RBC in an emergency?

- No specific action required.

What if a patient with an anti-D alloantibody was transfused with O RhD positive RBC in an emergency?

- Blood bank/transfusion laboratory to notify the treating clinical team immediately.
- Monitor for acute or delayed haemolysis.
- Consult with a haematologist.

What if you are unsure of the patients age or sex?

- Notify blood bank/transfusion laboratory when emergency RBC are requested.
- Group O RhD negative will be provided.

For more information contact your hospital blood bank/transfusion laboratory and refer to your local Critical Bleeding Guidelines.

References:

1. National Blood Authority: <https://blood.gov.au/group-o-negative-red-blood-cell-management> 9 October 2023