Surrey Pathology Services Transfusion Practitioner Team
What I’ve learned in 12 months

Biomedical Scientists are knowledgeable but often isolated from the hospital

Doctors are not always all knowing! – but are keen to learn

We are all in the job for the good of the patient
Breaking down barriers and perceptions

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=px9brE13Vig
What I want to achieve
How long does it take to get blood?

Note: These timings are dependent on a NEGATIVE antibody screen and NO GROUPING ANOMALIES. Results take longer if further investigations are required — communication between Lab and clinical area is essential.

**BLOOD BANK WILL GUIDE YOU REGARDING THE SAMPLE STATUS OF THE PATIENT**

A. Known patient (historical group), who has a valid G&S sample, fully processed with the Lab:
   - 10 minutes if suitable for electronic issue (El)
   - 40 minutes fully crossmatched, if not suitable for El
   - 10 minutes if ABO compatible, uncrossmatched blood (if can’t wait for full crossmatch)

B. Known patient, no valid sample with Lab / one group result only:
   - Send sample to lab immediately, once G&S reaches the Lab:
     o 45-50 mins for crossmatched blood if suitable for El
     o 45 to 60 mins if not suitable for El (Lab note: manual crossmatch to be started once sample released from analyser, blood released when result from analyser sent to Winpath)
     o 20 mins ABO compatible (once group is released from analyser, don’t wait for AB screen)
     o In the interim, group O Neg or O Pos can be issued (on blue light) for the named patient.

C. Patient has no grouping results:
   - Send two samples taken at separate venesections, ideally by different people, making sure the patient is identified correctly both times and samples are labelled AT THE BEDSIDE each time.
   - Timings as for B but in the interim, group O Neg or O Pos can be issued (on blue light) for the named patient.

If a patient is known to have atypical antibodies, blood may not be readily available in stock and will require a full crossmatch before issue. HOWEVER, no patient should die of exsanguination and a clinical decision (with Consultant Haematologist advice) can be made to give blood in an emergency.

**BLUE sections — for lab information only.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups in BT Lab</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Flyingsquad*</th>
<th>Group compatible**</th>
<th>Antibody screen</th>
<th>Electronic Issue (if screen neg.)</th>
<th>Full crossmatch (if screen pos.)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0 - 5 min</td>
<td>5 min</td>
<td>Not required</td>
<td>10 min</td>
<td>40 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Take one sample</td>
<td>0 - 5 min</td>
<td>20 min after sample received</td>
<td>45 min after second sample received</td>
<td>55 min after second sample received</td>
<td>85 min after second sample received</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Take one sample</td>
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<td>85 min after second sample received</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Take two samples from two venesections</td>
<td>0 - 5 min</td>
<td>20 min after second sample received</td>
<td>45 min after second sample received</td>
<td>55 min after second sample received</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*O Neg or O Pos – 0 min if taken, 5 min if issued

**6 min spin + 12 mins machine time
Massive Haemorrhage: How long will it take to get blood?

**Timings are from receipt of sample / 2nd sample (if required) in the laboratory
Valid sample = sample less than 7 days old (3 days if pregnant or transfused in last 3 months)**
"Can do" not "Can’t"

It will take 45 minutes to be ready, you can’t have it now.

You can’t have blood until I get a sample.

The sample is still on the machine, I can’t issue blood yet.

You can have X in 10 minutes, but I still need a sample.

You can take the Flying Squad, or wait 10 minutes for O issued to the patient directly.

or Y in 20 minutes but I still need a sample.
Moving forward

Offering tours, inspired by Harvey’s Gang, Western Sussex Hospitals’ idea for their young transfusion patients.