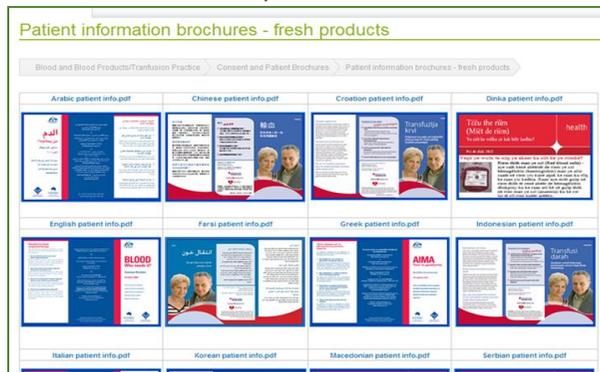


As the requesting doctor it is **your** responsibility to ensure that you correctly complete the request form for elective surgery patients so that:

- they are not required to attend pathology again to be rebled
- they do not undergo surgery without a valid pretransfusion sample being available should they require transfusion
- A valid pretransfusion sample allows the transfusion laboratory to provide compatible blood should a patient require it in very quick time.
- Patients who have had clinically significant red cell antibodies detected require antigen negative blood and full serological crossmatching
- Significant delays in the provision of compatible blood for a patient with clinically significant red cell antibodies may occur which places the patient at increased risk of an adverse event.

MULTI-LINGUAL PATIENT BROCHURES

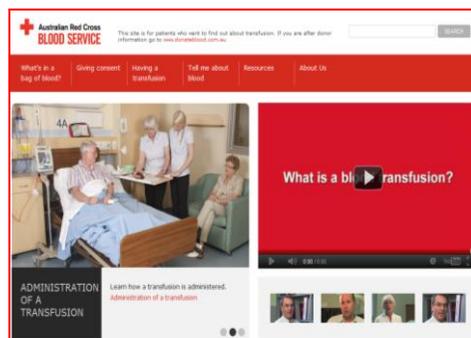
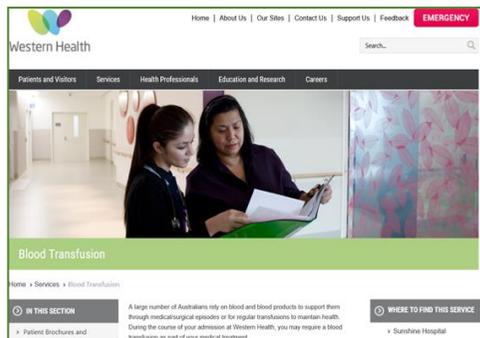
- Accessible via the WH Intranet Dept and Services- A-D: Blood Transfusion



Additional resources for patients:

WH Internet: http://www.westernhealth.org.au/Services/Blood_Transfusion

Australian Red Cross Blood Service: <http://www.mytransfusion.com.au/>



For further information, please contact: Susan McGregor Transfusion Clinical Nurse Consultant Phone: 0407 544 472 susan.mcgregor@wh.org.au

Requesting pretransfusion tests (Group & Hold) for elective surgery patients

What do I need to know?



**Requirements for
Medical Staff completing
pretransfusion test
requests.**

Pretransfusion sample validity

- The sample validity period depends on the patient's transfusion and obstetric history.
- Red cell antibodies can rapidly appear in response to stimulation by transfused red cells or as a result of pregnancy.
- If the patient is known to have a red cell antibody, testing to exclude formation of additional antibodies must be undertaken for each new sample received.

Consequently if:

- the patient has a positive antibody screen

OR

- has in the 3 months preceding collection of the pretransfusion sample been transfused with red cells (or platelets)

OR

- is currently pregnant (or has been)

the sample will have a validity of **72 hours** and **extended expiry will not be available**

Extended validity of a crossmatching blood sample to 1 month will only be available if:

- The patient is being seen in a pre-admission clinic.
- The patient is booked for elective surgery.
- The patient has not been transfused or pregnant within the last 3 months
- The patient's current red cell antibody screen is negative.
- The patient has never in the past had a record of a positive red cell antibody screen.
- The request for "extended" expiry is documented on the request form
- The Transfusion History & Pt Information section on the request form has been completed.

Note : If the answers to Question 1 and/or Question 2 in the Transfusion History & Pt Information section are Yes then extended expiry will not be available

If either

- the request form has not been completed correctly by the doctor
- OR
- the requirements for extended expiry have not been met due to the patient's transfusion or obstetric history

extended expiry will not be available - the 72 hour rule will apply.

- A new request form will need to be completed and the patient will need to be rebled within 72 hours of their date of surgery.

Request form requirements

- Must have complete patient identification details
- Must have test requested recorded. If extended expiry is required, this **must be specifically requested**
- Reason for request e.g. preop & nature of procedure
- Date & time of surgery and site surgery planned for **especially** if expected to be at Williamstown (no on-site path so transport of units is required)
- If extended expiry is being requested transfusion history & patient information **must be** completed.
- Sign the request form and provide a pager or telephone contact number. Contact details **are vital** – if there is a problem with your request or additional information is required the lab need to be able to contact you!

Site and date of surgery must be completed

If extended expiry is required, this must be requested

The patient history must be completed if requesting extended expiry.

If the patient history is not completed or the answers to Q1 or Q2 are yes then extended expiry will not be available.