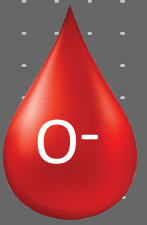


GROUP O RED BLOOD CELLS EMERGENCY BLOOD MANAGEMENT



Only 9% of the Australian population are blood Group O RhD negative but 17% of red blood cells issued are O RhD negative

Let's manage our Group O RhD negative red blood cells together!

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND TRANSFUSION

- ✓ A pretransfusion specimen should be obtained **as soon as possible** and **before blood components** are administered.
- ✓ **Group O red blood cells** must be used prior to confirmation of recipient blood group.
 - **Female patients of childbearing potential and children <16 years** should receive **O RhD negative red blood cells** wherever possible.
 - **Adult males and females without childbearing potential** may be transfused group **O RhD positive red blood cells** prior to confirmation of their blood group according to local policy.
 - Emergency Group O red blood cells **do not need to be CMV seronegative**. In Australia, universal leucodepletion of red blood cells provides a very high level of protection against transfusion transmitted CMV, even in the event that the recipient of emergency Group O red blood cells may be a pregnant woman.
- ✓ Change to transfusion of **group specific red blood cells** when the recipient blood group is confirmed.

Read more: Lifeblood [Use of Group O RhD negative red cells](#); ANZSBT [Guidelines for Transfusion and Immunohaematology Laboratory Practice](#); NPAAC [Requirements for Transfusion Laboratory Practice](#). See the NBA website for more detail.



DEVELOP A LOCAL POLICY

- ✓ Develop a **local policy** to include using **Group O RhD positive red blood cells** in emergency management and transfusion.
- ✓ Where stocks of Group O RhD negative red blood cells are limited, **Group O RhD positive red blood cells** may be used in accordance with local policies and national guidance.



Together, we can....
Ensure blood and blood products are
available for those who need it most