

Sample requirements for Grouping and Crossmatching in Neonates

1. Purpose and Scope

To provide information regarding the labelling policy for Blood Transfusion Laboratory sample and request forms and the type of blood sample required for blood grouping and crossmatching of neonates requiring transfer to another hospital

2. Personnel undertaking procedure

Embrace, Yorkshire Ambulance Service and the transferring hospital nursing, midwifery and medical staff.

3. Sample requirements

For the first 4 months of the baby's life samples from both the mother and baby are required for blood grouping of the baby and may also be required for crossmatching. The referring clinical team should ensure that a maternal sample is sent to the receiving hospital.

Maternal : 2- 6 mls EDTA *

Baby (if requested): EDTA . Ideally the minimum sample volume is 0.5 mls however if unable to achieve this amount please negotiate with the relevant transfusion laboratory. **

4. Health & Safety information

In "High Risk" cases samples/requests must be labelled accordingly.

5. Methodology

- Minimum patient details required on the samples and the request forms for both mother and baby are:
 - a. Family name and first name
 - b. Unique patient identification number, preferably NHS number (otherwise ensure all pre-fixes are included)
 - c. Full date of birth
 - d. Gender
 - e. Date and time sample taken
 - f. Initials of the person taking the sample.
- The blood sample details **MUST** be hand written. Pre-printed addressograph labels are not permitted on the blood sample but are allowed on the request form
- A separate request form is required for the baby and maternal samples i.e. one for each

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- An appropriately qualified health care professional must authorise the request form (as appropriate) and the person taking the blood sample should also sign the request form as well as the sample tube.

It may not be possible to process requests not fulfilling the above criteria and a new sample and request form will be required. Amending the request form or sample is **NOT** permitted.

6. Additional Information required

- Details linking the mother (i.e maternal sample) to the baby
- Does the mother have any known red cell or platelet antibodies? If so, please indicate what these are if known
- Has the baby received an intrauterine transfusion (IUT)

*Sarstedt Monovette sample tubes may not be suitable for the receiving laboratory, check before bleeding the patient.

** Clotted samples cannot be tested