Blood Bank

The primary function of the Blood Bank is to provide blood components for transfusion. The following general products can be made available by the Blood Bank:

- Packed Red Blood Cells, Leuko-reduced
- Fresh Frozen Plasma
- Single Donor Pheresis Platelets
- Cryoprecipitate Antihemophilic Factor

The Blood Bank provides prenatal testing services including ABO/Rh typing and Antibody Screening. If a clinically significant antibody is detected an antibody identification will automatically follow. In this event, paternal antigen typing may be ordered to predict the likelihood of Hemolytic Disease of the Newborn. Specific orders should be made with the Blood Bank in advance.

Rh Immune Globulin is available for unsensitized Rh negative mothers needing an antenatal injection or who have had an invasive procedure (amniocentesis, percutaneous umbilical cord blood sampling, etc), trauma, or miscarriage.

Direct Antiglobulin (DAT or Direct Coombs) Testing is available for cases of suspected auto-immune hemolytic anemia. If a DAT is found to be positive, additional testing will be performed automatically for inpatients the first time and then as needed thereafter. For outpatients, additional testing will be performed only when requested and then as needed.

Transfusion Requests: Patients who require transfusions must be identified verbally (if possible) and their first name, last name, and medical record number on the order must be compared with the patient’s hospital bracelet. Any discrepancies must be resolved before a sample is obtained. Specimens collected for a type and screen (T/S) or type and crossmatch (TXM) must be properly labeled (using the armband system at the bedside) with those two identifiers and the date and initials of person collecting the sample. The carbon copy bracelet is then placed on the patient’s wrist. If a T/S is ordered an ABO/Rh and antibody screen is performed only. Units maybe crossmatched with this specimen when needed until three days after the date obtained. If a TXM is ordered and ABO/Rh, antibody screen, and crossmatch for the number of units requested is performed. The T/S or TXM is not needed for non-red cell containing components (plasma products). Patients who receive red cell transfusions are identified by three identifiers; their first and last name, medical record number (SS# in some outpatient settings), and the blood bank armband number.
Donations: Autologous and Directed donations are performed at Blood Assurance. These donations are directed to the Blood Assurance for collection, testing, and delivery to stated Mountain States Health Alliance facility within 5 to 7 working days. However, Johnson City Medical Center does perform routine therapeutic phlebotomies. Routine therapeutic phlebotomies will be drawn with a physicians order, diagnosis, and by appointment. Appointments are made by calling Regional Cancer Center Laboratory of Johnson City (423-232-6911).