

Is it better to transfuse or time expire O D Negative red cells?

Pro's & Cons of transfusion to prevent Time Expiry

- Obligation to donors.**
- Financial benefits as transfusion results in less wastage.**
- Masking over-ordering - regular stock review is important.**
- SOP needed for the transfusion of O D Negative red cells to non O D Negative patients.**
- Transfusion in non O D Negative patients can lead to difficulties in future cross-matches due to mixed field reactions.**



Why should adult emergency red cells be anything other than 'Group O'?

The exact specification will depend on the clinical specialities likely to use the emergency supply.

Females of child bearing potential less than 50 years of age should receive O D Negative and K Negative red cells.

Clinical information is important to aide laboratory decision making.

Major Hemorrhage Protocols (MHPs): specify when to switch to O D Positive red cells and for which patient.

When should emergency red cells be replaced / rotated?



Dependent on size of the hospital - use daily use (i.e. Nominal Stock) information on VANESA to help.



7-10 days before expiry of red cells: enough time to transfuse or transfer.



If more than 1 satellite fridge - stagger the return of emergency units to the lab.

Does the location of emergency red cells matter?

YES!



Consider inside or outside the laboratory environment.

Review how often emergency red cells stored in the satellite fridge have been used.

Communication between laboratory and clinical staff is vital.

Confidence in the availability of emergency red cells.

When should O D Positive red cells be used as emergency blood?



In order to conserve O D negative stocks, consider using O D positive red cells in males and females aged 50 years or older.



References

A practical guide for the haematological management of major haemorrhage - BritishJournalofHaematology,2015,170,788–803
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/bjh.13580>

2018 BSMS Roadshow Presentations: <http://www.bloodstocks.co.uk/openmeetings/2018/presentations2018/index.asp>