

Referral Criteria

Please see INF1136 User Guide for the IBGRL Red Cell Reference Laboratory, for case acceptance criteria, which must be met prior to referral.

Patient Details

Where possible we require the following information for patient identification:

- surname/family name in full and first name(s),
- date of birth
- unique identification number (e.g. Hospital number, NHS number, Laboratory or Sample number
- previous IBGRL number if applicable

The information provided should be correct and complete on the sample tube(s) and the request form. Discrepancies may cause delays in processing the sample.

Please also provide sample type and the date the sample was taken. Samples that are old or received in poor condition may limit investigation performed by RCR.

Clinical Details

It is important that details regarding the patient's clinical condition (including expected date of delivery if the patient is pregnant) are provided on the request form. Some conditions / medications can help to explain the test results encountered. This information can also help us to assess the urgency of the request. Failure to provide this information can lead to unnecessary delays in resolving the case.

Transfusion / Pregnancy

Where possible please provide any history of previous transfusion or pregnancy. Our investigations often require that we use the patient cells provided (e.g. to screen for the absence of a high frequency antigen) knowledge of previous transfusions is therefore essential. Failure to provide this information can lead us to perform unnecessary testing.

Patient Phenotype / Genotype

Patient phenotype and/or genotype information can provide obvious clues for the resolution of many investigations (e.g. S-s-) phenotype in the presence of an antibody to a HFA). A full list of the patient's common phenotypes is also required to exclude / include the presence of underlying alloantibodies.

Summary of Findings / Referrals

Where possible please provide a summary of your findings (referrers often use a separate sheet of headed paper). It may also be relevant to include panel sheets, work pages or results printed from automated analysers, but please be mindful that IBGRL staff may not be familiar with these documents, therefore sending these sheets alone is not an alternative to completing a summary of findings.

Urgency

IBGRL Red Cell Reference Laboratory must be informed prior to sending urgent referrals and urgency of the case must be discussed. Please provide reason for urgency as it will help us to prioritise the request. Only state Urgent if truly necessary.

Referrer address and Details

In order to provide a report to our international users IBGRL require: referrers full name, position, and address, to which the report will be posted. Reports will not be issued to email addresses solely. It may be necessary for IBGRL staff to request additional information during the RCR investigation, therefore please also provide referrer contact details such as email address and phone number.