

## Sample requirements for Grouping and Crossmatching in Neonates

### 1. Purpose and Scope

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

### 2. Personnel undertaking procedure

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

### 3. Specimen 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 : 4.9 mls EDTA (or equivalent volume in local sample tubes)

Baby (if requested): 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 specimens/requests must be labelled accordingly.

### 5. Methodology

1. Minimum patient details required on the specimens and the request forms for both mother and baby are:
  - a. Family name, first name, unique patient identification number, preferably NHS number (otherwise ensure all pre-fixes are included), full date of birth, gender, date and time specimen taken and the initials of the person taking the blood.
2. The blood specimen details **MUST** be hand written. Pre-printed addressograph labels are not permitted on the blood specimen but are allowed on the request form.

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

Any requests not fulfilling the above criteria **CANNOT BE PROCESSED** and a new specimen and request form will be required. Amending the request form or specimen is **NOT** permitted.