

RBC Product Change



Leukoreduced RBC's Standard Issue

On July 1, 2014, St. Luke's will begin transitioning to Leukoreduced Red Blood Cell products in every instance of red cell transfusion. This practice will become standard of care for all laboratories using Memorial Blood Center as their Blood Bank of choice. On August 1, 2014, computer changes to eliminate references to non-leukoreduced products will be removed. In the transition period, an order for RBC's may be filled with leukoreduced RBC's.

Advantages of Leukoreduced Red Blood Cells are:

- Minimize Febrile transfusion reactions by >50%
- Decrease HLA alloimmunization (important for both future transplant patients and those needing a good response to platelet transfusion)
- Decrease risk of post-transfusion purpura and Transfusion Associated Graft-Versus-Host disease
- Decrease risk of transmission of leukotropic viruses such as EBV and CMV.
- No increase in cost of RBC product

If you have questions, please contact J. Steinhauer, MD, Transfusion Services Medical Director at (218) 249-5208, or Jennifer Hausman, MLS(ASCP)SBB, Transfusion Services Technical Specialist, St. Luke's Laboratory at (218)249-6589.

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