

**July 2008**

**To: Whom it may concern**

**Re: Standard UK Autologous Transfusion Label**

Dear Colleague,

Labelling of autologous salvaged red cells is as important as the labelling of allogeneic (donor) units. There is no standard label in use across the UK. Whilst some hospitals have developed their own label; or use the labels provided by the companies; in some cases there is no labelling at all. If a label is not routinely completed and appropriately attached to salvaged blood, a significant risk of error on reinfusion of the salvaged blood exists.

To address this issue and to help promote the safe and appropriate use of cell salvage, the UK Cell Salvage Action Group has developed a generic label for salvaged blood. The aim is to help standardise practice through the routine labelling of cell salvage blood in all hospitals throughout the UK. Cable ties will also be supplied to ensure the label can be securely attached to the reinfusion bag.

This label will be available for use as part of a pilot from July 2008 onwards. The label, for the first year, has been purchased by the Intraoperative Cell Salvage manufacturer's and will be distributed by them to their customers. In conjunction with the labels the UK Cell Salvage Action Group has developed:

- Guidance for completion of the autologous transfusion label
- Presentation for use by hospitals giving a step by step guide to completing the label

Following completion of the pilot (six months), an evaluation will be undertaken and any appropriate modifications will be made. In the first instance this pilot will be undertaken for intraoperative cell salvaged blood, however it is anticipated that following the pilot use of the label will be extended to , postoperative systems. It is hoped that the ongoing provision of these labels will be through the manufacturers to their customers.

The UK Cell Salvage Action Group recommends the use of the standard UK label and identifies the use of the label as "best practice". The intra-operative manufacturers have been supportive in funding a UK pilot of these labels and we would urge you to promote their use in your organisation.

Users will be formally invited to feedback on the label as part of the evaluation, however we are both happy to receive any feedback (both positive and negative!) at anytime.

Thank you in anticipation of your support with this important safety initiative.

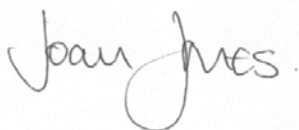
Address for correspondence:

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Catherine Howell, John Eccles House, Robert Robinson Avenue, Oxford Science Park,

To allow us to send a questionnaire to you at the end of the pilot phase we would be grateful if you could **email acknowledgement of receipt of the labels to [wafa.elhack@wbs.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:wafa.elhack@wbs.wales.nhs.uk)**

Please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you have any queries about the content of this communication.

Yours sincerely,



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