

January 2011

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 developed and piloted a generic label for autologous blood. The label was piloted in both Intraoperative and Postoperative Cell salvage and a review process was undertaken based on feedback received. The final label is now available and its use is encouraged to help standardise practice through the routine labelling of cell salvage blood in all hospitals throughout the UK.

The label is free and is now available from most UK Intraoperative and Postoperative Cell Salvage companies. Please contact your cell salvage supplier for more details on how to receive the labels.

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

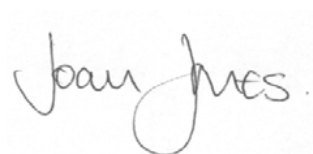
These can be downloaded from the Better Blood Transfusion Toolkit at www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk

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 cell salvage manufacturers have been supportive in funding the provision of the labels for their customers and we would urge you to promote their use in your organisation.

Thank you in anticipation of your support with this important safety initiative. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Joan Jones



Head of Quality Assurance &
Regulatory Compliance

Welsh Blood Service
joan.jones3@wales.nhs.uk

Catherine Howell



Chief Nurse Patient Services

NHS Blood and Transplant
catherine.howell@nhsbt.nhs.uk