

## REINFUSION OF SALVAGED BLOOD

### AREA of APPLICATION

Reinfusion of cell salvaged blood should follow standard blood transfusion practice. The responsible clinician must prescribe the cell salvaged blood for reinfusion in the same manner as for allogeneic (donor) blood.

### STAFF

All staff involved in the cell salvage process.

### PROCEDURE:

#### Labelling

The reinfusion bag must be labelled with the patient's first name, last name, unique patient identification number, date of birth and the expiry time of the salvaged blood. These details must be handwritten, from the details on the patient's identification band, onto an autologous transfusion label (such as the one opposite) and attached to the reinfusion bag as soon as is practicably possible.

#### Reinfusion

Red cells salvaged intraoperatively must not be stored in a refrigerator and should be kept with the patient at all times. Reinfusion should be in accordance with local policy and the American Association of Blood Banks guidelines<sup>1</sup> which state that red cell salvaged intraoperatively (washed systems), expire four hours from the completion of processing.

Some devices can be used intraoperatively and continue to salvage postoperatively from drains. In this case, the red cells salvaged intraoperatively should be reinfused within four hours of processing and the red cells salvaged in the postoperative period should be reinfused within six hours from the start of the postoperative collection.

Red cells salvaged intraoperatively should be given back to the patient using a filter to remove harmful components. The use of a 200µm screen filter found in a standard blood administration set is usual practice, however, other filters may be appropriate for certain specialities (see ICS Technical Factsheet *Number 7 – Use of Filters*).

**AUTOLOGOUS TRANSFUSION**  
**Untested Blood**  
For AUTOLOGOUS use only  
*Complete this section and affix to reinfusion bag*

Unique patient ID N<sup>o</sup>.....  
Last name .....  
First name .....  
DOB .....

Operator name (Print).....  
Expires / Reinfuse by: Date.....Time.....

(Calculate expiry time in accordance with national & manufacturer guidelines and local policy)

Type of autologous blood: (\*Delete as appropriate)

Intra-op Cell Salvage (Washed/Filtered\*)   
Post-op Cell Salvage (Washed/Filtered\*)   
Other.....

---

**Transfusion Record**  
*Complete this section and affix in clinical record.  
Enter date/time/signature below, each time the reinfusion bag/system is connected to the patient*

Unique patient ID N <sup>o</sup> .....	
Last name .....	
Type of autologous blood: (*Delete as appropriate)	
Intra-op Cell Salvage (Washed/Filtered*) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Post-op Cell Salvage (Washed/Filtered*) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other..... <input type="checkbox"/>	
Checked & administered by	
Reinfusion started (date/time)	
Reinfusion stopped/ end time	
Total volume reinfused .....	mls

Cell salvage manufacturers advise that a pressure cuff should NOT be used during reinfusion of cell salvaged blood as there is a risk of air embolus from the air in the reinfusion bag (refer to manufacturers protocols). Some devices may also detect a back pressure if the reinfusion line is open.

## **REFERENCES**

1. American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) Standards for Perioperative Autologous Blood Collection and Administration (4<sup>th</sup> edition)

The information contained in this ICS Technical Factsheet has been sourced from members of the UK Cell Salvage Action Group (UKCSAG) and is generally agreed to be good practice. The UKCSAG does not accept any legal responsibility for errors or omissions.