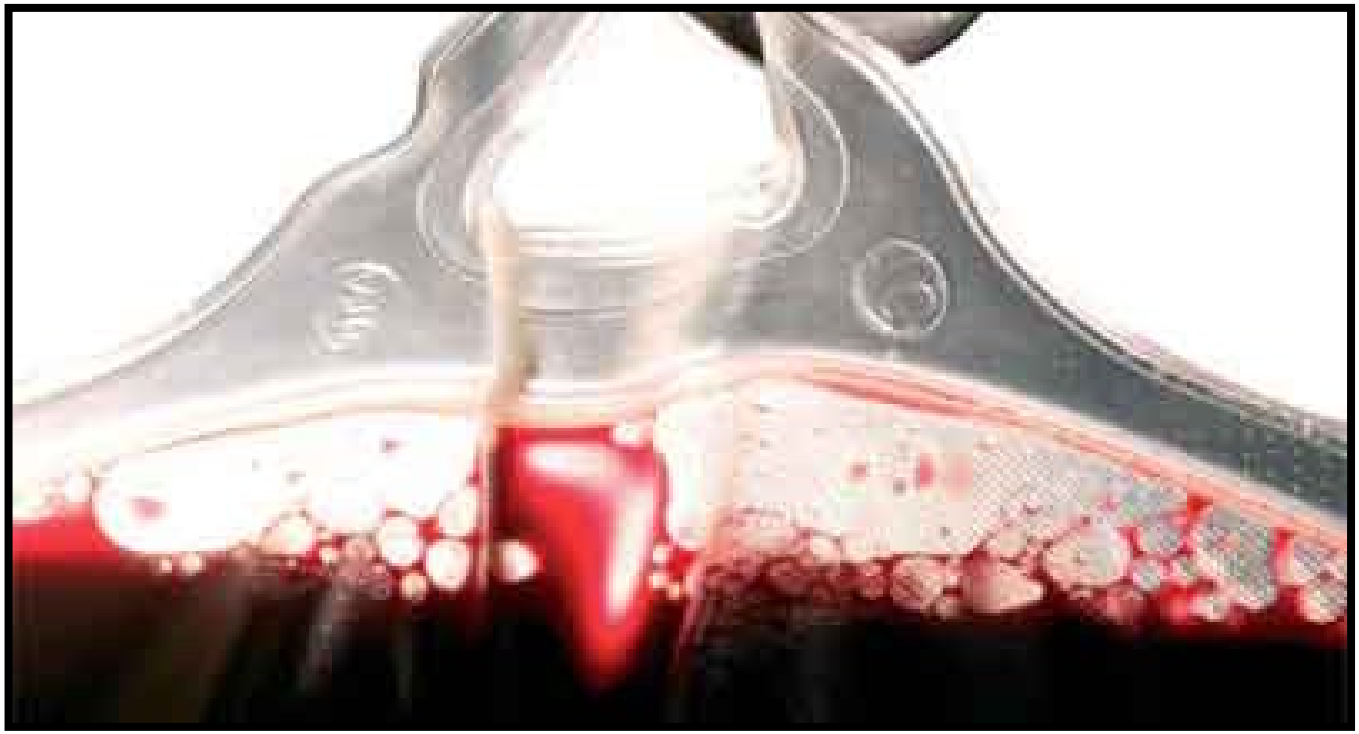
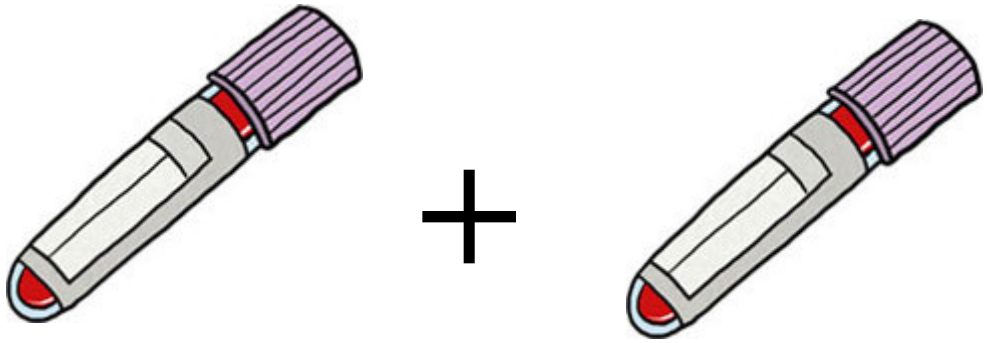
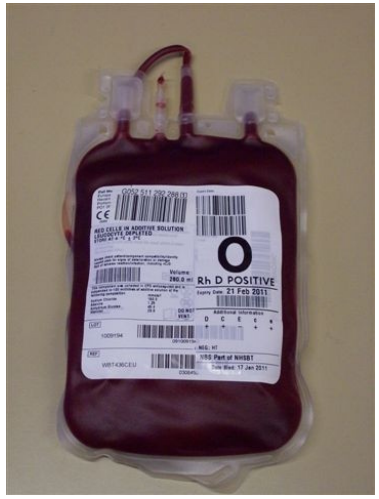
Two Sample Rule!



Louise Jefferies
Transfusion Practitioner
Weston Area Health Trust

Do you ask for a second sample?





ABO Incompatible Transfusion

- Can be fatal or cause severe harm but is avoidable
- DoH “Never Event” since 2011
- Wrong Blood in Tube is a known cause of ABO incompatible transfusion
- Training, assessments and incident reporting have not improved practice or reduced errors with sampling

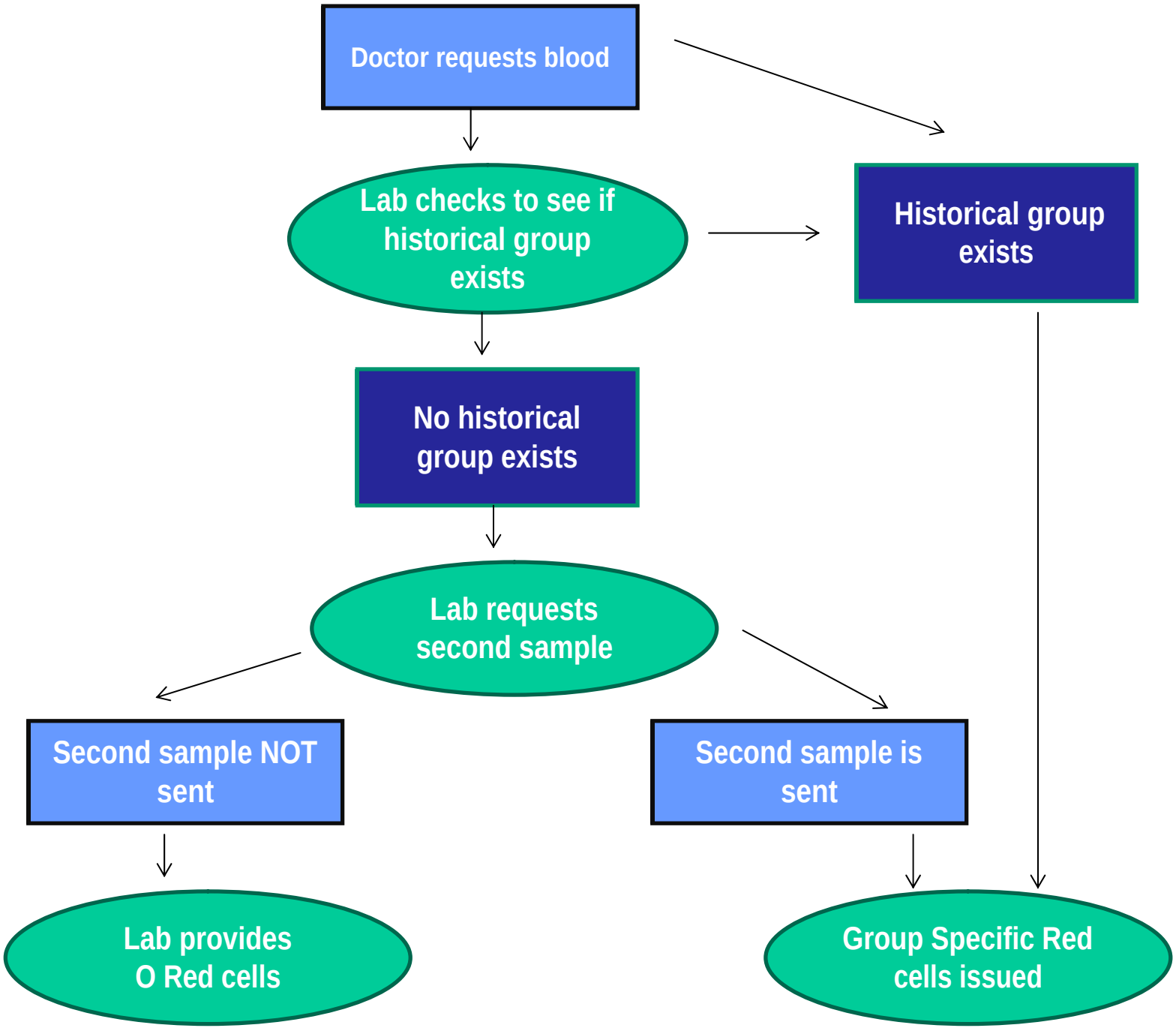
Wrong Blood in Tube Incidents (WBIT)!

- Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) reported 643 Wrong Blood in Tube Incidents 2013

- There are 30-40 unacceptable samples per month in blood transfusion lab at WAHT = approximately 7% of samples are labelled incorrectly

British Committee for Standards in Haematology (BCSH)2012

- Unless secure electronic patient identification systems are in place, a second sample should be requested for confirmation of the ABO group of a first time patient prior to transfusion, where this does not impede the delivery of urgent red cells or other components.


Doctor requests blood
Lab checks to see if historical group exists
Historical group exists
No historical group exists
Lab requests second sample
Second sample NOT sent
Second sample is sent
Lab provides O Red cells
Group Specific Red cells issued

Sample Collection in an Emergency for a Patient with no Historical Group

- **The BMS will inform you that a second sample is required**
- **Samples must be taken as two separate venepunctures!**
- **Ideally by two different members of staff**
- **Sent to the laboratory urgently**

How many patients will this affect in WAHT??

One month audit of transfusion episodes:

- **105 patients transfused red cells**
- **12 patients required a second sample**
- **2 patients required blood “urgently”**
- **1 of these did not use the blood for 6 hours?**

So 1 patient would have required O Negative blood

Summary

“Incorrect labelling is a major concern as it has been found that incorrectly labelled samples have a 40 times higher chance of being WBIT” *Lumadue et al, 1997*

2 sample policy builds a layer of safety against this by corroborating any given result with the second sample