UK Cell Salvage Action Group

The UK Cell Salvage Action Group is a subgroup of NHS Blood and Transplant Appropriate Use of Blood Group. It is made up of cell salvage experts from the UK.

Aims

- Support the wider implementation of cell salvage and facilitate a UK approach its use (both intra and postoperative cell salvage)

- Standardisation in the provision of cell salvage (training, labelling etc)

- Identification of issues which, if not addressed, could present significant risks to patients

- Promote the safe and appropriate use of cell salvage
What’s changing?

• There is now a generic label for autologous blood.

Why the change?

• The UK Cell Salvage Action Group has identified a need for standard labelling of autologous blood to minimise the risk of errors.

• With the support of the UK cell salvage companies, the autologous transfusion label has been developed and will be available through your cell salvage manufacturer.
Autologous Transfusion Label

All autologous blood should be labelled as soon as collection begins

Format of the label

- The label is double sided, with space to record the patient and procedure details and information on the completion of the label, the “storage” of autologous blood and the procedure for reinfusion.

- The label should be attached to the autologous system using a cable tie.

Where can I find the labels?

- The labels will be supplied to your organisation by the company you purchase your equipment from. It is up to the individual responsible for cell salvage in your department to decide where the labels and cable ties will be kept.
Completing the label

The following information should be completed in full at the start of the autologous transfusion procedure (i.e. at the start of blood collection):

- **Patient details** - **HANDWRITE** the details from patient’s identification band (or approved method of patient identification if the identification band is not accessible)

- **Operator Name** - Name of the individual responsible for carrying out the autologous transfusion procedure

- **Times and Dates** - Record the time and date the autologous blood expires. The expiry time should be calculated in accordance with National guidelines and the organisation’s autologous transfusion policy.

- **Type** - Tick relevant box and delete washed/unwashed as appropriate
Completing the label

- Attach the label immediately to:
  - the intraoperative cell salvage (ICS) collection reservoir if a “collect only” system has been used (this can then be transferred to the reinfusion bag as soon as the processing set is loaded) or
  - the ICS reinfusion bag if the full processing set has been set up from the start
Completing the label

- Attach the label immediately to:
  - the postoperative cell salvage (PCS) system. This might be a combined collection/reinfusion vessel or a reinfusion bag
Pre-transfusion Checks
Carry out pre-transfusion checks according to your Organisation’s Transfusion Policy
These should include:

Checking the:
- patient’s identification against the label
- prescription chart
- expiry time

Taking
- baseline observations

Looking for:
- signs of damage, discolouration, clumping etc in the autologous blood

If there is ANY discrepancy – DO NOT transfuse
Transfusion Record

Details of the autologous transfusion **MUST** be recorded in the patient’s clinical records/ transfusion record.

- Complete the information required on the peel off section of the autologous label and affix in the appropriate place in the patient’s clinical records/transfusion record.

Begin the reinfusion of the autologous blood

Ensure:
- The patient is monitored throughout the reinfusion of the autologous blood
- Observations are taken according to local policy

If there is any sign of reaction, **STOP** the reinfusion and seek immediate advice from the responsible clinician.
Feedback
The UK Cell Salvage Action Group always welcomes feedback from users.

If you have any comments regarding the label, please pass these on to the designated person in your department who will feed them back to the UK Cell Salvage Action Group.