

Provincial Laboratory Services



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Health PEI
One Island Health System

Reflex Testing of “Hold” BTS Samples

February 3, 2021

This information applies to: *Island Physicians and Nurse Educators*

As per new national accreditation requirements, all patients must have had their ABO checked at least TWICE on two separate samples before they can receive ABO-specific RBC transfusion. This change is being introduced in an attempt to address the unacceptable number of wrong-blood-in-tube (WBIT) errors (e.g. sample collection mistakes) occurring across Canada (and, in fact, throughout the world).

In an attempt to reduce the impact of this new standard on patients, as of February 8, 2021, the Blood Transfusion Service (BTS) here in PEI will be testing the “hold” samples that we receive if the patient does not have a previous ABO blood group in our system.

Please continue to submit “hold” samples as per your usual department protocols or clinical indications. If the sample meets the requirements for testing (e.g. the correct tube has been used, is adequately filled, and has been properly labeled, etc.), we will determine whether the patient has a previous ABO blood group on file, and if not, we will perform group and screen testing as per our usual process.

As such, even though the sample was submitted as a “hold”, you may receive group and screen testing results. This change in testing of “hold” samples applies only to samples submitted to the BTS laboratory.

For more information, contact:

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