**Policy Statement**

The Blood Transfusion Service has organized a system for providing blood prior to completion of compatibility testing for urgent requests for blood.

**Purpose of Policy**

To provide safe and appropriate blood with a minimum turnaround time for urgent requests for blood.

**Procedure**

1. A properly labeled and identified Blood Bank specimen should be collected before transfusion.
2. Complete the "Urgent Release of Uncrossmatched Blood" form with unit numbers, patient name and ID number, time, date and patient location.
3. If the ABO and Rh type, forward and reverse, is not yet completed on a current specimen according to procedure, only type O negative red blood cells will be released for transfusion. Four type O negative red blood cells are maintained for immediate release from the Blood Bank, as well as in the ED Trauma Refrigerator. Two type O positive units red blood cells are maintained ready for immediate release in the Blood Bank for unknown type males, or for female patients over childbearing age when inventory of Rh negative is critically low. Two units of Thawed Plasma (Type A or AB) are available at all times in the Blood Bank for immediate use when requested. WHEN THE ABO AND RH TYPE IS COMPLETED, TYPE-SPECIFIC RED BLOOD CELLS MAY BE ISSUED, ONLY IF REQUEST FOR RELEASE IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE CORRECT BB ID FROM THE PATIENT ARMBAND.
4. Uncrossmatched blood must bear the "Crossmatch Test Not Completed" label. Place the label on the back side of the donor unit. Blood is considered "uncrossmatched" until the antibody screen is resulted, even though the immediate-spin crossmatch may be completed.
5. If a pretransfusion specimen has been received, or testing is in progress, complete the EMERGENCY RELEASE procedure in computer system.
6. Determine if proper storage conditions will be maintained in the event the blood is not transfused immediately. When two or more units are released at a time, attach temperature indicators to the units and issue the blood in a cooler with ice or cold packs.
7. The requesting physician must sign the form and return the form to the Blood Transfusion Service as soon as possible.
8. BTS staff will crossmatch the units as soon as possible. The attending physician will be notified immediately when a positive antibody screen or incompatible crossmatch is detected.

9. A copy of the Urgent Release of Uncrossmatched Blood form is charted following completion of testing and review by the Blood Transfusion Service Medical Director.

10. Use of uncrossmatched blood is monitored and reviewed by the Lab/Blood Utilization Review Committee.