### Policy Statement

The Blood Transfusion Service participates in Look-back programs according to AABB and ARC standards.

### Purpose of Policy

To prevent infectious disease transmission and identify transfusion recipients that may be candidates for testing and counseling services.

### Procedure

The American Red Cross has a policy to notify Blood Transfusion Services of blood units from previous donations when donors’ current donation tests positive for anti-HIV-1/HIV-2, anti-HTLV I, anti-HCV, HCV NAT, HIV NAT, HBV DNA NAT or WNV NAT. Recipients of past donations from these donors are considered "at risk" and must be identified and offered testing. If confirmed positive, the recipient is offered counseling for clinical management and to reduce the possibility of spreading infection. Testing and counseling services are also provided by American Red Cross Blood Services, Western Lake Erie Region (ARCWLE).

1. The Lookback procedure is initiated by the ARCWLE following confirmation of donor's positive tests.

2. ARCWLE will notify the UTMC Blood Transfusion Service (BTS) Medical Director by letter, identifying the implicated blood component units.

3. The UTMC BTS Medical Director or designee ascertains the final disposition of the implicated blood units. If the unit was transfused, the recipient's name, hospital identification number and the attending physician are recorded on the ARCWLE form. The completed ARCWLE notification form is returned to the ARCWLE Medical Director.

4. The UTMC BTS Medical Director notifies the attending physician in writing and provides the physician with a copy of the completed ARCWLE notification form. Information concerning resources for testing and counseling services is provided to the physician. The resources include but are not limited to the following:
   a) HIV Clinical Nurse Specialist (AIDS Resource Team – ART)
   b) HIV Psych Clinical Nurse Specialist
   c) Infection Control Practitioner
   d) ARCWLE

5. The UTMC BTS Medical Director notifies the Risk Management department. If the recipient’s physician is unwilling or unavailable to contact the recipient, Risk Management (in collaboration with the AIDS Resource Team or the Infection Control Practitioner in the case of HCV and other viral tests) will contact the recipient on the attending physician’s behalf. Required written documentation and notification
requirements will be processed according to the Department of Health and Human Services policy 42 CFR Part 482 for HIV notification, or the most current FDA Guidelines on recipient notification related to donor testing for HCV. Current ARC guidelines will be followed for other viral tests.

6. The physician must contact Risk Management to clarify legal issues related to disclosure to any individuals other than the recipient.

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**Approved by:**

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**Policies Superseded by This Policy:**

*It is the responsibility of the reader to verify with the responsible agent that this is the most current version of the policy.*

**Reference:**

1. AABB Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services, Current edition.
4. 21 CFR 610.46-48 and 42 CFR 482.27(c)