

How to use swing tags for emergency group O red blood cell in Victoria

OFFICIAL

For consistency across Victorian laboratories and health services the following is recommended:

- Print swing tags in transfusion laboratory (a limited number will be provided initially) [download available at www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/blood-matters-program]
 - in colour (if available); or
 - on the appropriate coloured paper/card or sticker (pink and blue) attached to luggage tag.
- Attach swing tags to emergency use group O red blood cell units (example below – pink for group O RhD negative and blue for group O RhD positive) before issue from transfusion laboratory as required, for either
 - direct issue to patient for transfusion; or
 - issue to a satellite fridge.
- Provide staff education
 - Protocols and education should be available to guide staff to easily identify and access appropriate emergency use group O red blood cells for the required patient, including where the person's age or sex cannot be determined.

