

Blood Bank Testing Update

Memo From the Laboratory

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This Communication is From

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ABO/Rh Retype & Second Sample Collection

To strengthen patient identification and ensure compliance with the **College of American Pathologists (CAP)** accreditation requirements, all BVHS laboratories will be implementing a new required procedure for ABO/Rh confirmation effective **May 11, 2026**.

What's Changing

- A second, independently collected specimen is now required for all patients without a verified ABO/Rh history on record to perform an ABO/Rh retype.
- The initial ABO/Rh type and the retype must be performed on **two independent samples**, collected at different times.
- When feasible, the second sample collection should be performed by a **different specimen collector (nurse, phlebotomist, etc.)** than the first specimen to reduce the risk of identification errors.
- When feasible, Blood Bank will use previously collected EDTA samples for the ABO/Rh retype.
- Type-specific blood products will **not** be issued until the ABO/Rh retype is complete, and results are concordant.
 - Emergency release of un-crossmatched red cells remains available per existing policy.

Why This Matters

This procedure enhances patient safety by reducing the risk of the wrong patient being collected and aligns laboratory practice with CAP expectations for independent verification when no historical ABO/Rh type is available.

Next Steps

Blood Bank will place an ABO/Rh retype order and contact the patient's location for second samples when required. Please ensure strict adherence to patient identification and labeling procedures for all collections.

If you have questions or need clarification, contact Blood Bank at 419-423-5325.