A "check" specimen is a one-time requirement for **ALL patients** and is an important safeguard against transfusion errors resulting from incorrectly labeled patient specimens. It is **NOT required** every time a sample is sent to the Blood Bank for setting up blood products.

If your patient has a record of an "ABO type" or "Type and Screen" at UCSF after July 1, 2006, a "check specimen" is **NOT required.**

**CHECK SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS**

- **MUST** be collected separately (another phlebotomy) from the initial specimen for ABO/Rh, "Type & Screen" or "Type & Cross."

- Must be labeled with the patient’s full name, medical record number, date of birth, date drawn and phlebotomist information (legible name of phlebotomist/nurse or 5-digit physician ID. Initials **NOT** accepted)

- **A check specimen must have its own requisition form and must be sent to the blood bank separately from the initial specimen.** If a check specimen does not have a separate requisition form or is in the same bag as the first specimen, it will **NOT** be accepted by the blood bank

**RARE EXCEPTIONS TO SEPARATE PHLEBOTOMY RULE**

- For urgent transfusions, both specimens may need to be drawn consecutively from one line.

- For patients with a difficult peripheral draw, a second phlebotomy may **NOT** be possible.

In these situations to ensure process integrity:

- The "check" specimen must be drawn and labeled by a second phlebotomist. **A separate requisition must be filled out.** *NOTE: If both specimens are drawn by the anesthesiologist in the OR, a second individual must sign the check sample to confirm patient identification.*

- All other labeling and transport requirements for a "check" specimen must be met.

If blood is required immediately before receipt of the check specimen or completion of compatibility testing, **Emergency Release Blood should be ordered.**

If you have any questions, please call the blood bank (353-1313) or e-mail Dr Suchitra Pandey, assistant medical director of the UCSF Blood Bank, at suchitra.pandey@ucsfmedctr.org.

For more information on Blood Bank specimen requirements, see [http://labmed.ucsf.edu/labmanual/mftlng-mtzn/test/info/4bb.html#SpecimensCrossmatchCheckSample](http://labmed.ucsf.edu/labmanual/mftlng-mtzn/test/info/4bb.html#SpecimensCrossmatchCheckSample)