September 7, 2017

To: Chiefs of Service, Attending Physicians, Housestaff, and Nursing Personnel (ED, OR, all ICUs)

From: Zane Amenhotep, MD  
Division Chief, Blood Bank  

Re: Required Authentication of Clinical Justification for Release of Emergency Blood Components

Whenever there is a clinical need for emergency transfusion, the clinician who is responsible for the expected recipient must document (as authenticated by their signature) clinical justification for the release of emergency blood components, and this documentation must be submitted to the Blood Bank.

A physician signature in the emergency release authorization section of the manual (paper) Blood Bank Requisition (see image below) fulfills this requirement for authentication by a clinician. Importantly, an RN or other individual signing on behalf of a clinician DOES NOT meet this requirement.

In An Emergency:

1. **Emergency Group O Red Cells** may be requested when a patient’s blood type is unknown; a patient specimen must be sent to the Blood Bank as soon as possible in order to establish their ABO/Rh type, so that Group O RBCs can be reserved for individuals who can only receive Group O RBCs.

2. **Type Specific Blood** may be requested or issued once a patient’s ABO/Rh type is established.

No antibody screen or crossmatch is performed for Emergency Group O Red Cells or Type Specific Blood.

For additional questions or concerns please contact Zane Amenhotep, MD at (415) 206-8240, or Barbara Haller, MD, PhD at (415) 206-8588.