



Transfusion Technical Update

Pathlab transfusion laboratories are changing the analysers used for transfusion testing. The new analysers use a solid phase red cell adherence method (SPRCA). This replaces the column agglutination technology in use currently. At present only Rotorua and Tauranga sites are automated; Whakatane and Taupo are using manual methods. When the new technology is introduced on 24th October 2018, **all** sites will be automated. Automation will enhance the safety of the transfusion service by reducing the risk of human error in production of the laboratory reports.

SPRCA technology provides increased sensitivity and specificity of the antibodies detected. SPRCA will only detect IgG antibodies. These are the antibodies implicated in transfusion reactions (non ABO) and haemolytic disease of the newborn (HDN). 60% of laboratories in North America are using this technology.

By eliminating the non-clinically significant IgM antibodies delays in provision of blood will be significantly reduced in a number of patients. The Midwives and Obstetricians will no longer receive reports for antibodies which do not cause HDN.

If you have any questions please contact:

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CLINICAL UPDATE

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