



# INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCE

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Dear Doctor

## **New Standards for Transfusion Request Forms and Sample Labelling**

To ensure the optimal use of blood products and to minimise the risk of transfusion related adverse events, a set of new standards for transfusion request forms and sample labelling has been introduced across Australia effective October 1, 2008. This has been developed by the National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC) in conjunction with the Australian and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion (ANZSBT).

This set of standards will affect:

- All pre-transfusion requests
- All antenatal and perinatal serology
- All cord blood serology
- All public and private pathology providers

The implementation of this set of standards will affect how you make a transfusion request and label your patient specimens. Those changes are highlighted in the attached document which covers the changes in the three areas:

- Request Form
- Sample Labelling
- Sample Collection Timing

The IMVS realises that in some instances this new standard may indicate a change within your medical practice and would like to offer an amnesty period until *January 1 2009*.

This set of standards requires a 'zero tolerance' approach to be taken by the IMVS to fulfil our obligations not only to the accreditation bodies, but importantly, to the patient.

I appreciate that such practice changes cannot be implemented straight away. If you would like to discuss this new standard in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact the following:

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|---|-----------|
| ▪ Ken Davis, Transfusion Medicine, RAH    | 8222 5469 |
| ▪ Ian Williams, Transfusion Medicine, RAH | 8222 5604 |
| ▪ David Roxby, Transfusion Medicine, FMC  | 8204 5272 |
| ▪ Tom Traino, Transfusion Medicine, WCH   | 8161 6320 |

From 1 January 2009, requests and samples that arrive in the laboratory with incomplete or illegible information as indicated above are unable to be processed. These samples and request forms will be discarded and must be recollected and sent with a new request form.

Yours sincerely

**Professor L Bik To**  
Clinical Director  
Haematology