LifeStream
GIVE HOPE | GIVE LIFE | GIVE BLOOD

INSTRUCTION SHEET
GUIDELINES FOR BLOOD TRANSFUSION

PRINCIPLE:

In order for a patient to be transfused, there are special requirements to protect patient safety. These requirements, as well as information regarding days of operation and lead time needed for component preparation, are provided below.

PRE-TRANSFUSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Order a pre-transfusion hemoglobin for red blood cell transfusion request.
- Order pre-transfusion platelet count for platelet transfusion request.
- Request no more than 2 units of packed cells for transfusion in a given 24-hour period.
- Establish a patient identification system to ensure that the appropriate blood is transfused to the correct patient.
- Submit the patient's sample at least one day prior to the scheduled transfusion.
- Draw crossmatch samples for red cell transfusions within 3 days prior to the scheduled transfusion.
  - If transfusion is scheduled for Monday, the patient's sample must be drawn and received at LifeStream on the previous Friday to stay within the 3 day sample limit
- For platelets, no specimen is necessary if the patient's ABO and Rh(D) have already been established by our laboratory.
- For patients for whom the ABO and Rh(D) is not known or confirmed, see "Instruction Sheet: Submission of Blood Specimens for Compatibility Testing" (form SOP\1879M2).

STORAGE REQUIREMENTS:

- Do not remove plastic strap on the shipping container until ready for transfusion.
- Product MUST remain in container until ready for use.
- Check the expiration date and time listed on the tag attached to the container.
  - <u>Red Cell Products</u>: Transfusion must begin within 24 hours of the time the container was packed (recorded on the tag).
  - <u>Platelet Products</u>: Transfusion must begin within 24 hours of the time the container was packed (recorded on the tag).
  - <u>Thawed Plasma</u>: Transfusion must begin within 24 hours of the time the container was packed (recorded on the tag).