

# Blood samples required before blood transfusion for children

The aim of this information sheet is to help answer some of the questions you may have about blood samples taken before a transfusion. If you have any questions and concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to a doctor or nurse caring for you or your child.

This information sheet is intended as a supplement to the parent's guide, *Will your child need a blood transfusion?* produced by the NHS Blood and Transplant Authority.

## Why are two records of blood group required?

We want blood transfusions to be as safe as possible for our patients. To ensure that the right (compatible) blood is transfused, two records of a patient's blood group are required before products for transfusion can be issued to reduce the risk of a patient receiving the wrong blood group. This 'double check' helps ensure that the correct patient has been identified.

## What if there is no record of blood group?

If we have a record of the patient's blood group only one blood sample will usually be required. If we do not already have a record of a patient's blood group, two blood samples will be needed on two separate occasions to confirm the correct blood group. Two different members of staff should take the samples.

If the blood samples are being taken in the outpatient department this will mean a wait of 30 minutes in between the first and the second sample being taken.

We are not able to use blood samples that have been taken at a different hospital.

## What about in an emergency?

In an emergency it may not be possible for a patient to give two samples. In this circumstance blood will be issued after only one blood test, but only Group O blood will be issued in this situation. Group O blood can generally be given to people with any blood group.

## Useful sources of information

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit [w: www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets](http://www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets)

### Evelina London Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medicines, please speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline.

**t:** 020 7188 3003, Monday to Friday, 10am-5pm      **e:** [letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk)

### Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department.

**t:** 020 7188 8801 (PALS)      **e:** [pals@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@gstt.nhs.uk)

**t:** 020 7188 3514 (complaints)      **e:** [complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk)

### Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch.

**t:** 020 7188 8815      **e:** [languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk)

### NHS 111

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

**t:** 111

### NHS website

Online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you take control of your health and wellbeing.

[w: www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

### Get involved and have your say: become a member of the Trust

Members of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust contribute to the organisation on a voluntary basis. We count on them for feedback, local knowledge and support. Membership is free and it is up to you how much you get involved. To find out more, please get in touch.

**t:** 0800 731 0319      **e:** [members@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:members@gstt.nhs.uk)      [w: www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership](http://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership)

#### Was this leaflet useful?

We want to make sure the information you receive is helpful to you. If you have any comments about this leaflet, we would be happy to hear from you, fill in our simple online form, [w: www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets](http://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets), or **e:** [patientinformationteam@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:patientinformationteam@gstt.nhs.uk)

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A list of sources is available on request