

Supply of emergency use red blood cells to Ambulance Victoria

Packing guidance

December 2024

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this land and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Request of emergency use red blood cells (RBC) by Ambulance Victoria

**MICA Paramedics at scene require emergency use RBC; or
MICA Flight Paramedics have exhausted HEMS (helicopter) RBC
supply at a scene**

**Adult Retrieval Victoria Clinical Coordinator contacts nearest health
service stocking emergency use RBC**

- confirm availability and pickup location

Health/transfusion service to pack required # RBC (2 or 4)

- only 2 per shipper



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Equipment required to pack emergency RBC

1x large Lifeblood shipper

1x foil pouch

14x chilled ballast

MUST be pre-conditioned (chilled 2-6°C for ≥ 24 hrs prior to use)

Plastic bag to contain RBC (either individually or both)

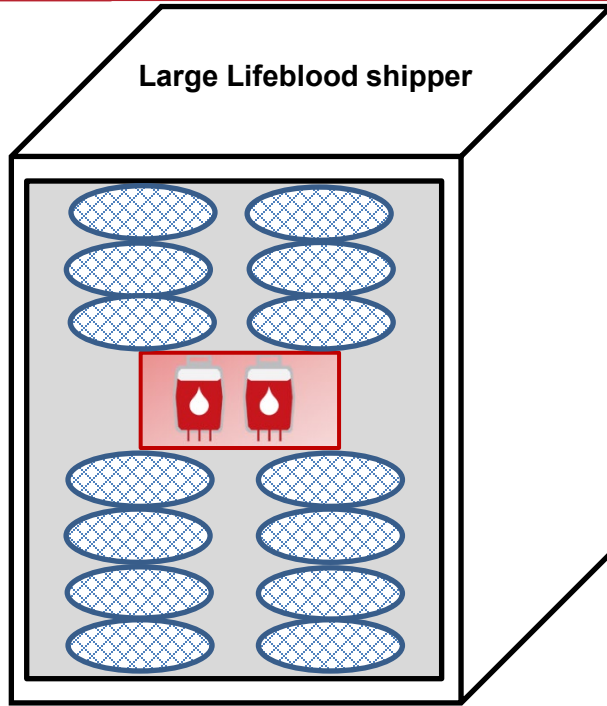
Shipper label



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R3 Lifeblood shipping configuration



1. Foil pouch (x1)
2. Chilled ballast (x8)
3. Plastic liner bag and 2x RBC
4. Chilled ballast (x6)

Total 14 chilled ballast required for 2 RBC

Valid for 8 hrs 25 min

If 4x RBC required, pack into 2x Lifeblood shippers

Shipper labelling

7. Close foil pouch, seal shipper (including compatibility report if supplied) and attach completed label to top of shipper

Ensure transfusion service informed of supply of emergency use RBC to Ambulance Victoria



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 Australian Red Cross Lifeblood		URGENT BLOOD for Ambulance Victoria use only	
AV contact name (if known): _____		Contents of box:	
AV case number (if known): _____		<input type="checkbox"/> 2x O RhD neg emergency use RBC	
Patient details (if known): _____		<input type="checkbox"/> 2x patient specific (crossmatched) RBC	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
Ambulance Victoria	DO NOT OPEN unless you are going to transfuse Remove one unit at a time Document use or units 'handed over' in ePCR		
Receiving hospital	DO NOT OPEN, even if transfusion required. Call your transfusion laboratory for instructions ASAP		
Packed time: _____ Date: ____/____/____ Initials: _____			
Cold chain valid until (8 hrs from packing): _____ Date: ____/____/____			
<i>If applicable (Ambulance Victoria/Air Ambulance Victoria to document if shipper opened):</i>			
Opened time: _____ Closed time: _____ Initials: _____			
Opened time: _____ Closed time: _____ Initials: _____			
From: <Insert name and address of transfusion laboratory and sending health service>			
Telephone number: <Insert contact telephone number of transfusion laboratory>			

Return of unused blood components

The shipper may be returned if patient no longer requires emergency use RBC

Are blood components packed appropriately?

Has cold-chain been maintained?

Contact transfusion service if required to assess ability to return RBC to stock

Transfer of unused blood components

The shipper may be transferred with the patient to another health service

- **Are blood components packed appropriately?**
- **Has cold-chain been maintained?**

DO NOT OPEN THE SHIPPER!

Contact your transfusion service to inform of receipt.
They will advise you of next steps.

Acknowledgement

Australian governments fund the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood for the provision of blood, blood products and services to the Australian community.



Accessibility statement and publisher information

To receive this presentation in another format phone 03 9694 0102, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or [email Blood Matters](mailto:bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au) <bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au>.

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