

|  |
| --- |
| Emergency use group O red blood cells (RBC)Image displaying which emergency use group O red blood cells go to which patient groups: O RhD positive red blood cells to females over 50 years and males over 18 years. O RhD negative red blood cells to females 50 years and under, males 18 years and under, or if the patient sex or age is unknown. |

* Emergency use RBC are **NOT RISK FREE**

**Use group specific/crossmatched blood wherever possible**

* **CHECK** for a valid group and screen/crossmatch and transfusion history
* Take a pretransfusion sample **BEFORE** giving emergency blood
* **MOVE** to **group specific/crossmatched** RBC ASAP
* **ASSESS** the clinical requirement for holding emergency use group O RBC
* **ROTATE** emergency use group O RBC on a regular basis
* **AUDIT emergency group O RBC use**
* **INVESTIGATE incidents** of inappropriate emergency group O RBC use and/or wastage
* **REPORT** antibody formation/transfusion reactions after emergency group O RBC use to local and state **haemovigilance program**
* **PRESERVE** **O RhD negative blood for those that have no alternative**

|  |
| --- |
| To receive this document in another format, phone 9694 0102, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email Blood Matters<bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au>.Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.© State of Victoria, Australia, Department of Health, January 2023.Available at Blood Matters Program website <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/blood-matters-program> |