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| 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**

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