

**To:** Transfusion Services Managers  
**From:** Hospital Relations Department  
**Date:** March 13, 2020  
**Re:** 32<sup>nd</sup> Edition AABB Standards Update

**Update:**

Due to unexpected changes to inspection timeframes, the effective date has been revised to **June 1, 2020**.

Please accept our sincerest apologies for the short notice.

**Background:**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> edition of AABB standards requires the following to be met for patient testing.

*Standard 5.14.5 Pretransfusion Testing for Allogeneic Transfusion*

There shall be two determinations of the recipient's ABO group as specified in Standard 5.14.1. The first determination shall be performed on a current sample, the second determination by one of the following methods:

- 1) Comparison with previous records
- 2) Testing a second sample collected at a time different from the first sample, including a new verification of patient identification.
- 3) Retesting the same sample if patient identification was verified using a **validated electronic identification system**.

The previous edition of standards allowed for retesting of the same sample if patient identification was verified using an electronic identification system **or another process validated to reduce the risk of misidentification**. The blood bank armband system - unless electronic and validated - will no longer qualify and consequently submission of a secondary patient sample is required.

**Impact to Client:**

In order to comply with the updated AABB standard, your response to the statement

**Samples were collected using an electronic ID system**  Yes  No

will be required on *RTF101.01A, Reference and Transfusion Services Request Form*. If samples were **not** collected using an electronic system, then a 2<sup>nd</sup> sample collected at a separate phlebotomy must be submitted for testing in order to provide crossmatched products.

The second sample must be properly labeled and can be an EDTA, heparin, ACD, CPD or red-top without serum separator sample.

This change is effective July 15, 2020.