



To: Carter BloodCare Customers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: June 27, 2022
Re: Hemoglobin S Testing

Background

A comprehensive evaluation of Hemoglobin S (HbS) testing was prompted by the challenges in procuring SICKLEDEX® reagents used to perform this testing. As a result of this analysis, the following was identified by the Immunohematology Reference Lab (IRL) management team along with Medical Services:

1. It is not required to retest a donor previously identified as HbS negative.
2. It is permissible to label a unit as HbS negative based on historical donor test results as a donor's sickle cell trait status does not change over time.
3. Sickle cell testing on each unit is not necessary and no longer industry standard.
4. Sickle cell testing will only be performed as needed to minimize any interruptions in fulfilling orders for red cell units that have been requested to be HbS negative.
5. On demand sickle cell testing on units will be discontinued unless no historical HbS negative units can be located to fill client's request.
6. On August 2, 2022, the IRI will start testing qualified donor units on a molecular platform that in addition to testing for rare antigens tests for HbS.
7. Donors will be tested as HbS negative based on SICKLEDEX® or on Immucor BioArray HEA® molecular testing.

Impact to Client

Beginning August 2, 2022, testing for HbS will only be performed one time per donor.

- All subsequent units collected from a known HbS donor will be labeled as "sickle cell negative" when requested by your facility regardless of method of testing performed.
- Labeling for HbS negative will remain unchanged.
- The fee assessed for HbS negative will be reduced to \$20.00.
- Plans to make available the historical donor HbS status via iWeBB® have been initiated. Status updates will be communicated accordingly.

Questions and Additional Information

Your understanding is sincerely appreciated and we are grateful for the partnerships that we enjoy with you in the service of your patients.

Please contact Hospital Relations at hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org with any questions or concerns.