

Blood Transfusion Laboratory Practice '**Urgent**' Exercise Instructions 26R8 or 26R8P

Distributed 21/09/26 - Closing 05/10/26

Italian participants will receive 26R8P

All other participants will receive 26R8

Exercise 26R8 or 26R8P is presented as an 'urgent' scenario with the aim of assessing all participating laboratories for the IAT crossmatch. Unlike for other exercises, please **do not deselect on the basis of ABO incompatibility**.

There will be differing definitions of 'urgent' depending on local protocols and the techniques/technologies that are used in your department. However, for the purposes of this exercise the 'urgent' scenario is as follows:

- Blood is required as soon as possible but not 'un-crossmatched'
- If the antibody screen is positive, there is no time for identification (or subsequent selection of antigen negative units)
- There are no historical records available for Patients 1, 2 or 3

With so many different types of laboratory participating in the scheme, it is impossible to present clinical situations that will apply to all. Even if this scenario does not apply to your laboratory, please complete this exercise according to the instructions below.

Material Provided

Please refer to the COSHH sheet provided for all Health and Safety aspects of the samples.
https://haembtlt.ipassportqms.com/document_download/M2ZlYWZMTETNTYwNi00YjEzLTg3YTItYTNmMzAzN2FIMGY5

- 3 'patient' whole blood samples for ABO grouping (**forward and reverse group**) and D typing only, **i.e. not for RhK typing, antibody screening, or crossmatching**.
- 3 matched 'patient' serum/plasma samples for antibody screening, and serological crossmatching only (**not** antibody identification), **i.e. not suitable for reverse grouping**. Centrifuge before use.
- 3 'donor' red cell samples, labelled with ABO/D types and assumed to be 'High Titre' negative, for crossmatching. These are supplied at 7 to 10% in modified Alsever's solution and should be prepared for use in your IAT technology.

The whole blood samples are prepared from pooled donations, usually phenotypically matched only for ABO and D and are therefore unsuitable for use as an 'auto control'. We recommend that all plasma samples are centrifuged prior to testing.

Instructions for testing

- **Do not perform antibody identification, or phenotype 'patient' or 'donor' samples.**
- Use the serological techniques that you would normally employ in a similar 'urgent' clinical situation.

Crossmatching section

Please crossmatch all donations for all patients by IAT, the purpose is to assess the IAT crossmatch.

DO NOT 'DE-SELECT' as a result of policy, e.g. do not deselect K or D positive units for K or D negative patients with **no** atypical antibodies, or group O units for a group A, B or AB patient.

These instructions may only be applicable in the context of UK NEQAS exercises.

Additional information:

N.B. Please crossmatch all donations for all patients by IAT, the purpose is to assess the IAT crossmatch.

Antibody Identification and RhK phenotyping should not be performed for this exercise

There are no patient phenotypes provided for this exercise

Continued over

Return of results

- Please enter your results via www.uknegasbtlp.org and ensure that you have clicked the '**Submit**' button on the data entry page. At this stage, a summary of the results submitted will be displayed, and can be printed for checking and as a record of submission. Any change after this time (and before the closing date) will require a request to the scheme to re-set the web page for re-submission.
- Instructions for using the data entry website can be found at https://haembtlp.ipassportqms.com/document_download/NTgwNjczYzAtYmRkZC00NzIILWI4MTAtODM3YjBmY2U3MzVj
- Please note, if a negative result is obtained in the antibody screen, please use the 'No specific antibodies detected' response when submitting results.
- The distribution will be closed on the web on the published closing date / time, and all results 'saved' but not 'submitted' will be collected and assessed.
- If you wish to make a comment regarding this exercise, click on the 'Email Scheme' link at the top of the data entry pages.

It is important that EQA samples are treated in the same way as clinical samples so that EQA errors can accurately reflect potential problems in clinical practice. This applies to all steps in the laboratory process, not only serological testing. Therefore we strongly advise that, as far as possible, routine 'booking-in' and checking procedures are followed with UK NEQAS samples. In order to make this work, the laboratory manager may need to 'prepare' the exercise in some way such as by making request cards, or setting up codes so that the samples can be entered into a computer system, and/or any routine manual checks made to detect result transcription / sample transposition errors.

If you have any problems with the exercise material or any queries regarding completion of the exercise or submission of results, please contact the BTLT team for advice.