

New Blood Product Announcement: Low-Titer Group O Whole Blood

What: Low-titer group O whole blood (LTOWB) will be used only for adult patients (18+) during trauma activation in ED and OR settings. Patients will receive a max of 8 units during massive transfusion protocol (MTP) followed by standard components.

When: Tuesday, October 1st, 2024

Why: In trauma situations, LTOWB is used due to several key advantages it offers, especially when resources are limited:



Image source: American Red Cross

- **Comprehensive Resuscitation:** Whole blood provides all the components needed for resuscitation—red blood cells, platelets, and plasma. This can simplify the process of preparing products for MTPs, reduce the risk of error, and speed up treatment, especially in severe trauma cases where blood loss is significant.
- **Minimized Complications:** Lower titer levels of antibodies reduce the risk of transfusion-related reactions, which is particularly important in trauma scenarios where multiple units of blood are required. Also, those who received LTOWB have been found to have improved survival rates at 24 hours and received less total volume of blood products compared to component therapy.

Overall, LTOWB provides a practical and effective solution in trauma situations, balancing the need for rapid and safe blood resuscitation.

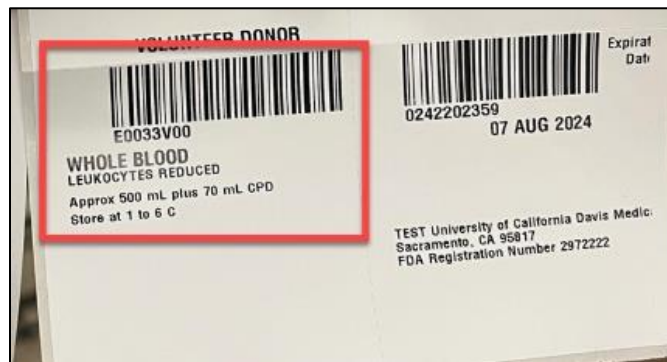
Administration & Documentation: LTOWB will be administered the same as other blood products during an MTP. LTOWB units will be documented in the MTP flowsheet and/or anesthesia record.

Women of Childbearing Age: All LTOWB units are **Rh-positive**. If a woman is Rh-negative, and of childbearing age, she should be informed about potential risks during pregnancy.

LTOWB Documentation Example:

Whole Blood Low Titer Group O Blood Admin Flowsheet Documentation – Trauma Nursing Unit

LTOWB Product Label Example:



Additional education on LTOWB ordering and documentation can be found on the [Epic and IT Education website](#) for UC Davis Health.

Helpful Resources:

[13012 Administration of Blood and Blood Components - Hospital Policy](#)

[The Use of Whole Blood Transfusion in Trauma - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

[Doing more with less: low-titer group O whole blood resulted in less total transfusions and an independent association with survival in adults with severe traumatic hemorrhage - ScienceDirect](#)

Questions? Please contact the **Transfusion Safety Officer** for more information.

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