



Wrong Blood in Tube (WBIT)



The right patient. The right sample.
The right blood.

1

Wrong Blood In Tube and Near Miss Events By Blood Bank (January - March 2026)



All wrong blood in tube events were detected before transfusion, preventing patient harm.



Total WBIT Near Misses: **20**



Misdirected transfusions due to WBIT: **0**

2

Why Does WBIT Matter?



A WBIT error occurs when a blood sample is collected or labelled incorrectly.

If not detected it may lead to:



Delayed transfusion



ABO mismatched products

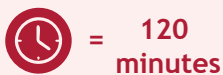


Potentially life-threatening transfusion errors

4

The difference it makes - turnaround times

Without second sample



Blood will be ready in approximately 120 minutes.

- Blood group not yet confirmed.

With second sample



Blood will be ready in 60-90 minutes.

- Blood group confirmed from two independent samples.

The benefit:
Patient safety & faster care



Two independent samples enable us to provide the correct blood, faster and with maximum safety.

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Every step you take matters



Make sure the patient is correctly identified.



Label at the bedside.



Never pre-label tubes.



Collect the second sample independently.



Ask the patient to state their full name and DOB (if possible).

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The Second Sample Policy - Our Safety Process

1



First Sample

Positively identify the patient.
(Folder number, DOB, surname)

Each sample must be accompanied by a completed request form which includes:

- Patient identity
- Time of collection
- Collector's name and signature

2



Blood Bank Check

Contact the relevant Blood Bank you usually do business with to establish if the patient has a previous record at WCBS.

3



Previous Record?

Yes - Record found.

No further action required.

No - No record found. Blood Bank will advise you to draw a second sample and complete an additional request form.

4



Second Sample

Collect the second sample independently using the same positive identification. Each sample must be accompanied by a completed request form which includes:

- Patient identity
- Time of collection
- Collector's name and signature

5



Time Between Samples

5 minutes minimum

The time difference between collection of the first and second sample should be at least 5 minutes.

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Testing and Issue

Blood Bank tests both samples and units are electronically crossmatched. Compatible blood is selected from stock and issued to the patient.



If the second sample is not collected immediately the process is delayed and becomes more costly!

Hospital staff will need to walk to the Blood Bank twice.

or

Transport/courier will be utilised twice to deliver the second sample.



Let's work together to get it right the first time for safer and faster transfusions!

For more information, contact your closest Blood Bank.



Western Cape Blood Service
Do something remarkable

www.wcbs.org.za