

## Significant increase in antigen negative results displayed on red cell ABO labels since NHSBT changed to labelling on historical results

At the beginning of March 2015, NHSBT switched over all the suitable blood characteristics to label on historical results, rather than needing a current result on every donation. The exceptions to this are Mandatory microbiology tests, plus ABO, Rh D, C, E, c, e, K, CMV, Lysin, and Antibody screening, which will all still need a current result.

The additional blood characteristics offered on OBOS (M, S, (s), (k), Fya, Fyb, Jka, Jkb, Lua, Kpa) will appear on the label as antigen negative if they have 2 previous results one of which must be after 01/01/2012.

More of the stock units you receive will have confirmed antigen negative results on the label because there is no need for a current result on a donation. NHSBT is still testing unconfirmed and untested donors so the number of antigen negative results will increase.

Initial figures are very exciting. The figures below show the extra red cell units that were labelled with negative antigen results in March 2015, after the go-live of the labelling on historical results.

Blood characteristic	Number of negatives tested	Number of negatives labelled on historical results	Number of negatives labelled in Total
Cw	16820	25927	<b>42747</b>
Sickle	18796	36509	<b>55305</b>
M	3393	6515	<b>9908</b>
S	8652	14010	<b>22662</b>
s	1219	1848	<b>3067</b>
k (cellano)	10	123	<b>133</b>
Fya	3952	7784	<b>11736</b>
Fyb	2888	3697	<b>6585</b>
Jka	4050	7085	<b>11135</b>
Jkb	5327	8128	<b>13455</b>
Kpa	2130	5971	<b>8101</b>
Lua	1894	5144	<b>7038</b>

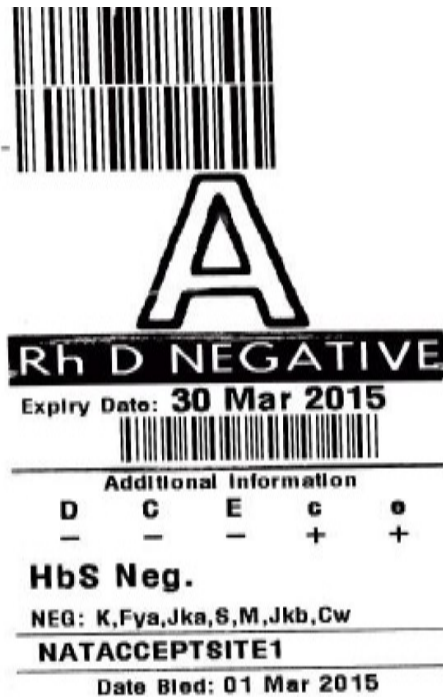
The rules for the Electronic dispatch information (EDI) are now:

**If N or P is displayed, further testing is required to confirm the result but the donor has been tested in the past. If – or + is displayed the blood characteristic will appear on the validation label as this is a confirmed result.**

It is important to remember that the ABO label will only display antigens that the red cells are negative for. Positive antigen types will be shown on the supplementary label that is attached to some units.

As stated above NHSBT is still testing donors for mandatory microbiology markers, ABO, Rh D, C, E, c, e, CMV, Lysin and antibody screening on every donation. However if the result for one of these antigens is not resolved on a donation for any reason (with the exception of D),

it will not be shown on the label. This could mean that occasionally one of the Rh, or K type could be missing on a label.



It is very unlikely that there would ever be a red cell unit that could not display all of the additional blood characteristic negative antigens on the label, see the label opposite. As can be seen, there are 7 antigen negatives, plus HbS neg. At least 2 more antigen negatives would fit on the label. It is a very rare unit that would have this many antigen negatives. If there was a unit with this many or more negatives, it would have a supplementary label affixed to display all the antigen types.

Bev Hirst. Lead Specialist, Testing. 11/05/15