Viral Haemorrhagic Fever - Ebola Virus

Guidelines for Blood Transfusion Laboratories in Scotland

In consultation with other laboratory and service providers, the following advice is given for the processing of samples from viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF) patients.

VHF is an extremely rare disease, but should a patient present at your hospital, the following precautions should be taken.

Patients will be categorised by the medical team treating them into 3 categories:

1. Low possibility of VHF
2. High possibility of VHF
3. Confirmed VHF

Low possibility of VHF patients may need to receive blood. These samples will be sent to the laboratory by normal methods. The request form will state that there is a low possibility of VHF patients.

- No group and hold samples should be sent
- Only send a sample if patient definitely requires blood
- Do not use vacuum sample delivery systems
- Fully crossmatched blood will be issued
- Only fully automated processes will be used
- Face visors will be used when discarding liquid waste
- Waste material from patients who are low risk should be discarded in the same way as all other waste from analysers. Any material from a patient found to be at moderate or high risk entering the lab by mistake, must be immediately placed in a yellow container with a yellow lid capable of being hermetically sealed, clearly labelled HIGH RISK WASTE FOR INCINERATION AND SEPARATE COLLECTION.
- Low risk patient samples will be discarded once testing finished (i.e. not held for repeat testing)

No samples will be sent to the Transfusion Laboratory for ‘High Possibility of VHF’ and ‘Confirmed VHF’ patients

- A request form will only be sent to the laboratory
These patients will receive uncrossmatched O Rh negative blood

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