Blood Typing

Blood typing is crucial to giving patients the correct type of blood or blood product like plasma or platelets.

Your blood type is based on:

Blood type
All People have a blood type. Blood type can be 1 of 4 types:
1. A.
2. B.
3. AB.
4. O.

Each letter refers to a kind of protein on the surface of red blood cells. For example, the surface of red blood cells in Type A blood has antigens known as A-antigens.

The Rh Factor
In addition to the ABO typing described above, each blood type is also grouped by its Rhesus factor, or Rh factor. Blood is either Rh positive (Rh+) or Rh negative (Rh-). About 85% of Americans have Rh+ blood. Rhesus refers to another type of antigen, or protein, on the surface of red blood cells. The name Rhesus comes from Rhesus monkeys, in which the protein was discovered.

Document Released: 09/09/2003 Document Re-Released: 01/09/2011
ExitCare® Patient Information ©2011 ExitCare, LLC.