

# BloodNews

United Blood Services 

News & Information  
for our Hospital Customers

June 2006

## Frequently Asked Questions About The ISBT 128 Transition

United Blood Services and our parent organization, Blood Systems, will be transitioning to ISBT 128 labeling on all blood products by the summer of 2007. In order to keep our customers updated with our progress and to provide them with more information regarding the conversion process, we have compiled a list of questions we have been hearing from our hospitals customers about ISBT 128.

*Hospitals will need to look at all of their systems in place to ensure that they will accommodate the new, longer donation numbers and component codes that are part of ISBT 128.*

### **Who needs to register for ISBT 128?**

Any facility that collects or modifies blood components or will apply ISBT 128 labels will need to register with ICCBBA and pay a registration fee. It is not necessary to be registered to receive ISBT 128 labeled blood components.

### **Why should I have to pay to use ISBT 128? Isn't that like paying to use a code?**

ISBT 128 is an evolving standard that needs to continually adapt and develop to meet the rapidly changing needs of the transfusion and transplantation communities. Each year new data structures are developed and new product codes added. The license fee is used to protect your investment in ISBT 128 so that it will continue to support your needs well into the future. ICCBBA is a not-for-profit organization that uses its income from license fees to support the management and development of the standard, and to promote its global use.

### **Will my facility have to register if we modify blood components or aliquot in small volume quantities?**

Yes, it is highly recommended that you register because each modification or aliquot will have a unique product code. Registration will also provide you with additional information and technical support, and it costs only \$100 per year for your entire facility.

### **My hospital blood bank is not linked to the Laboratory Information System and all the blood bank records are manual; why should I be concerned about ISBT 128?**

The donation numbers are larger and require more space, so forms may need to be changed to accommodate the new donation numbers. Hospitals will need to look at all of their systems in place (such as billing procedures) to ensure that their systems will accommodate the new, longer donation numbers and component codes that are part of ISBT 128.

### **I heard there were "flags" used in the Donation Identification Number. What do you mean by "flags" and do I need to use the flags?**

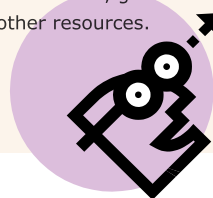
Flags are part of the ISBT 128 data structure and are unique identifiers that can be used to facilitate the control of various processes in a blood center. For example, different size tubes can be "flagged" to ensure that the correct tube is used for a specific test procedure. The decision to use the flags is voluntary and will not interfere with shipments of blood products from one facility to another.

See "ISBT 128" on page 2 >

### **Our Hospital Handbook is now on the Web!**

You've asked for more online resources and now they are here. Go to [www.UnitedBloodServices.org](http://www.UnitedBloodServices.org) and click on the Hospitals & Physicians tab at the top of the page for customer service information, guidelines, education and other resources.

Visit before July 10th and enter our drawing for a trip to the AABB Annual Meeting and TXPO 2006 in Miami Beach!



 **United Blood Services**

## ISBT 128

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### **What does my billing department need to know about ISBT labeling?**

Hospital billing systems will need to accommodate the ISBT 128 data structure and the new extended donation numbers (including flags) and component codes. If necessary, the billing system will need to be changed to correctly interpret the new product codes.

### **If all the information is bar-coded into the label, will it also be eye-readable?**

Yes. All bar-coded information will also be eye-readable either directly above or below the bar code.

### **Where can I get labels in advance so I can program our computer and bar-code readers?**

Sample bar codes (both valid and invalid) that can be used for validation may be found on the ICCBBA Web site. While it won't be feasible to provide samples of the 5,000+ product code labels, we will be able to provide samples for each of the blood product types (for example, red cells, plasma, cryoprecipitate, etc.). United Blood Services will distribute the labels in late 2006 or early 2007. In the meantime you can contact your computer vendor or go to [www.ICCBBA.com](http://www.ICCBBA.com) to get label samples.

### **Will I need to upgrade my scanners?**

We recommend laser scanners that can read ISBT 128, can concatenate (read two adjacent barcodes at one time) and can auto-discriminate between Codabar and ISBT 128. Test your scanners with the labels to determine if you will need to upgrade them. You can also consult your instruction manual to determine if your scanner is ISBT 128 compatible.

### **What will be the size of the donation number labels provided on the back of the blood units? We place these labels on crossmatch workbooks, in the patient's chart, on the blood check-out log book, and many other forms.**

The donation number labels will be approximately 1 3/4" wide by 3/4" high. Check to be sure that all forms utilized in this manner can accommodate the new labels.

### **Is it acceptable to use just the 6-digit donation number when using our forms or in our computer system? The increased length of the numbers does not match the space available.**

No. The entire ISBT 128 donation identification number must be put into each product's computer record or file

### **Register for ISBT 128**

Looking for more ISBT 128 information and resources? Visit [www.ICCBBA.com](http://www.ICCBBA.com) to register and to learn more about ISBT 128.

comment section along with sufficient information to provide an audit trail. Forms and systems may need to be redesigned to accommodate the full extended donation identification number.

### **Are materials available to help train nurses and other personnel?**

There are materials available on the ICCBBA Web site and United Blood Services will provide additional training materials in early 2007.

*Portions of this article were reprinted from the ICCBBA Web site. Further information and resources regarding ISBT 128 can be found at <http://www.ICCBBA.com>.*

## **Visit Our Web Site For Transfusion Medicine Bibliography**

A comprehensive bibliography of articles and references of interest in transfusion medicine from leading journals such as *Transfusion*, the *New England Journal of Medicine* and the *Journal of the American Medical Association* is now available under the "Hospitals & Physicians" tab on the United Blood Services Web site: [www.UnitedBloodServices.org](http://www.UnitedBloodServices.org). Click on "Educational Opportunities and Resources" in the bar on the left-hand side of the page, then choose "Bibliography" from the drop-down menu.

The bibliography contains 17 sections on such transfusion medicine topics as specialized collections, component preparation, transplantation and donor reactions. More than 300 articles are listed in the searchable archive. Visitors to the Web site can use the bibliography to direct their searches in on-line medical libraries.

"This comprehensive reference breaks transfusion medicine down to its specific parts," said Gerald Giordano, M.D., a United Blood Services medical director based in Arizona. Dr. Giordano developed the bibliography, which will be updated regularly.