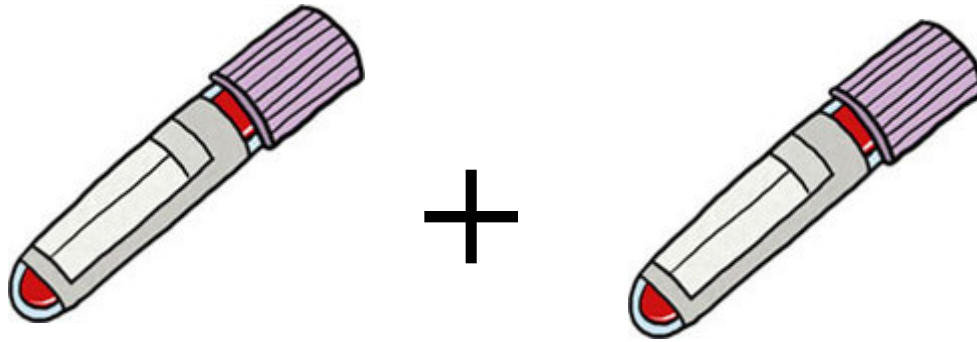


# Two Sample Rule!

Louise Jefferies  
Transfusion Practitioner  
Weston Area Health Trust

Do you ask for a second sample?



# ABO Incompatible Transfusion

- Can be fatal or cause severe harm but is avoidable
- DoH “Never Event” since 2011
- Wrong Blood in Tube is a known cause of ABO incompatible transfusion
- Training, assessments and incident reporting have not improved practice or reduced errors with sampling

# Wrong Blood in Tube Incidents (WBIT)!

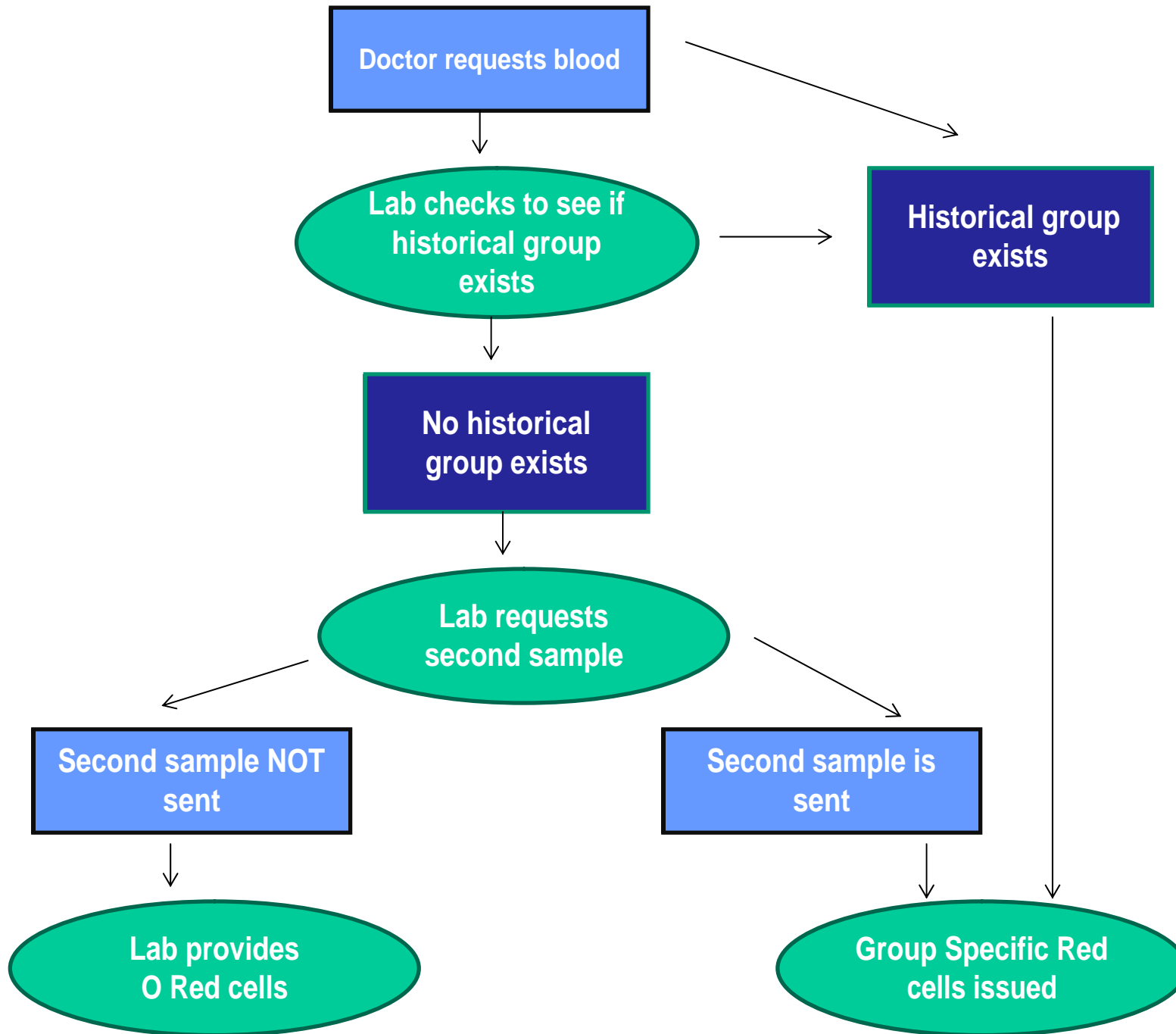
- Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) reported 643 Wrong Blood in Tube Incidents 2013
- There are 30-40 unacceptable samples per month in blood transfusion lab at WAHT = approximately 7% of samples are labelled incorrectly

# British Committee for Standards in Haematology (BCSH)2012

- Unless secure electronic patient identification systems are in place, a second sample should be requested for confirmation of the ABO group of a first time patient prior to transfusion, where this does not impede the delivery of urgent red cells or other components.

# BCSH Guidelines amendment 2015

- Where patient identification is sufficient to assure that the historical sample is from the same patient as the current one, the historical sample may be valid as the 'group-check' sample to allow issue of ABO identical red cells to meet the two sample recommendation



# **Sample Collection in an Emergency for a Patient with no Historical Group**

- **The BMS will inform the medic that a second sample is required**
- **Samples must be taken as two separate venepunctures!**
- **Ideally by two different members of staff**
- **Sent to the laboratory urgently**



# **How many patients will this affect in WAHT??**

**One month audit of transfusion episodes:**

- 105 patients transfused red cells**
- 12 patients required a second sample**
- 2 patients required blood “urgently”**
- 1 of these did not use the blood for 6 hours?**

**So 1 patient would have required O Negative blood**

# Summary

“Incorrect labelling is a major concern as it has been found that incorrectly labelled samples have a 40 times higher chance of being WBIT” *Lumadue et al, 1997*

2 sample policy builds a layer of safety against this by corroborating any given result with the second sample