

Think p⁺ositive

Save negative

Emergency use of Group O red blood cells (RBCs) – *use wisely*

Patient / scenario	Choose	Why
 Children (≤16 years)  Women of childbearing potential (≤ 50 years)  Unknown patient (sex/age not known)	O₋ Use O Negative RBCs	Protect Safest option in emergencies when crossmatched RBCs are not yet available Helps protect future pregnancies
 All other adults (Males > 16 years; Females > 50 years)	O₊ Use O Positive RBCs	Conserve Safe in <u>emergencies</u> when crossmatched blood is not yet available Saves O negative for those needing it most



Send a group and screen sample as soon as possible

Switch to crossmatched compatible blood as soon as available

Based on the National Statement for the Emergency Use of Group O Red Cells
National Blood Authority | blood.gov.au

