

# Foreword

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**A**ntibody identification testing is performed to determine the cause of a positive antibody detection test due to the presence of unexpected antibodies. Unexpected antibodies may also be detected during ABO grouping, crossmatching, or eluate testing. The goal of the antibody identification test is to determine the red cell antigen specificity of the antibody. The antibody identification panel and select cell panel used for antibody identification are designed to express or lack specific red cell antigens. Although the goal of antibody detection and identification is to demonstrate likely clinically significant alloantibodies, these tests at times reveal other information, such as passively acquired anti-D or cold-reactive autoantibody. Such results may provide information that addresses clinical issues, may suggest the need for an alternative crossmatch method, or may affect the decision of how and/or whether to transfuse.

The purpose of this *Guide* is to assist transfusion services with the identification of red cell antibodies in a manner consistent with the requirements and recommendations of the AABB *Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services (BBTS Standards)* and the *Technical Manual*.<sup>1,2</sup> This *Guide* may assist with the development of policies and procedures regarding antibody identification. In addition, it may serve as a training tool. An understanding of the terms as defined in the glossary is essential. Familiarity with pertinent material in the *Technical Manual* and knowledge of the basic concepts of antibody identification will also enhance the value of this *Guide*.

Wen Lu, MD, editor

1. Gammon R, ed. Standards for blood banks and transfusion services. 32nd ed. Bethesda, MD: AABB, 2020.
2. Er LS, Bailey DJ. Identification of antibodies to red cell antigens. In Cohn CS, Delaney M, Johnson ST, Katz LM, eds. Technical manual. 20th ed. Bethesda, MD: AABB, 2020:389-428