INTRODUCTION
Screening serum/plasma samples for irregular blood group antibodies is an essential component of compatibility, antenatal and donor testing protocols. Requirements for antibody screening of patient and donor samples differ and it is acknowledged that implementation of modern blood bank practices demands the use of a sensitive antibody screening procedure. In this respect the quality of reagent red cells is of paramount importance.

For antibody screening of patient samples, reagent red cells should not be pooled and should display homogenous expression of a range of blood group antigens.

REAGENT DESCRIPTION
The reagent red cells for antibody screening were prepared from blood donated by Group O donors and are available as a 0.8% suspension of washed red cells in a preservative solution. The preservative solution contains antibiotics and has been specially formulated to preserve red cell integrity and antigenicity. Transfer of these reagent red cells to another container is not recommended.

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The reagent red cells have been shown to have a negative direct antiglobulin test, indicating that no human IgG or C3 complement components are detectable on the cell surface.

TEST PROCEDURE

General Information

This reagent has been standardised and validated for use by column agglutination techniques, including BioRad & Ortho systems. Its suitability for use in other techniques cannot be guaranteed. Users are advised to carefully confirm reagent suitability before using alternative techniques.

Materials provided

- ALBAcyte® 0.8% Reagent Red Cells for Antibody Screening (Ref: Z463)

PERFORMANCE LIMITATIONS

- The reagent red cells contain blood group antibodies which vary according to their specificity and therefore no single technique will detect all blood group antibodies.

- False positive or false negative results can occur due to contamination of test materials, improper reaction temperature, improper storage of materials, omission of test reagents and certain disease states.

- The reactivity of the product may decrease during the dating period and, therefore, should not be used after the expiration date.

SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

The reagent red cells have been shown to have a negative direct antiglobulin test, indicating that no human IgG or C3 complement components are detectable on the cell surface.

DATE OF ISSUE

15 September 2013

INTENDED PURPOSE

The reagent red cells for antibody screening are intended for the detection of irregular red cell antibodies in blood samples.

STORAGE CONDITIONS

The reagent should be stored at 2-8 °C. Do not freeze. Do not use if obviously discoloured or haemolysed. Do not use beyond the notified expiry date.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND PREPARATION

Specimens should be collected by a standard collection technique. The specimen should be tested as soon as possible after collection. If testing is delayed, the specimen should be stored at refrigerated temperatures. Blood specimens exhibiting contamination should not be used. Extreme care should be taken if hemolyzed samples must be tested. Clotted samples or those collected in EDTA should be tested within fourteen days from collection. Donor blood may be tested until the expiry date of the donation.