



To: Saskatchewan Senior Medical Officer Committee

From: Saskatchewan Provincial Transfusion Medicine Service

Date: May 6, 2016

RE: CBS GREEN PHASE ADVISORY

Dear colleagues:

Due to a number of factors, Canadian Blood Services (CBS) has declared a ***Green Phase Blood Shortage Advisory*** impacting **all Group O** red blood cells. At this time, **Group A** inventory levels are also reaching concerning levels. All other blood groups and components are in adequate supply. Please see the appended CBS Shortage Advisory for details.

The ***Green Phase Blood Shortage Advisory*** is a mild shortage in which CBS cannot meet the optimal inventory requirements of hospitals across the country. As a result, hospitals throughout the country, including Saskatchewan, have been asked to cut their inventory levels for group O red cells by 10% to help balance the national inventory. ***At this time, clinical practice at the hospital level remains unaffected.***

The existing blood supply in Saskatchewan will be monitored carefully. We have the following requests to help protect our inventory:

- 1) In the setting of new patients with hemorrhage, please ensure blood group specimens are drawn on arrival to allow for provision of group specific cells as soon as possible. Uncrossmatched group O red cells will be available, but requests for more than 2 units of unmatched group O blood will be subject to Transfusion Medicine approval in Saskatoon and Regina.
- 2) If a patient is likely to require significant (greater than 4 units) of group O or A blood, please notify your local blood bank of the situation as soon as possible, to ensure appropriate preparedness and availability of blood components.

It is anticipated that this advisory will be in effect into next week. Further communication and updates will be available at www.saskblood.ca. Full details of the National Plan for Management of Shortages of Labile Blood Components can be found at www.nacblood.ca.

Blood donation – particularly from group O and A individuals – is encouraged to help CBS replenish their supply and prepare for any emergency demands that may arise.

Please disseminate this information to departments or teams who may be impacted by this advisory.

If consultation with Transfusion Medicine is required by medical or laboratory staff, please contact the physician on-call for Transfusion Medicine in your area (see below).

Thank you for your partnership as stewards of this precious resource.

Sincerely,

Oksana Prokopchuk-Gauk, MD, FRCPC
Division Head, Transfusion Medicine
Laboratory Services, SHR
Phone: 306-655-2186 (office)
Email: oksana.prokopchuk-gauk@saskatoonhealthregion.ca

&
Donna L. Ledingham, MSc, MD, FRCPC
Hematopathologist
Laboratory Services, RQHR
Phone: 306-766-4465 (office)
Email: donna.ledingham@rqhealth.ca

 <i>Provincial Transfusion Medicine Medical Consultation</i> <i>Ask for the physician on call for Transfusion Medicine</i>
Saskatoon and Northern Saskatchewan 306-655-1000
Regina and Southern Saskatchewan 306-766-4444

cc. Saskatchewan Transfusion Medicine Working Group
Mike Higgins, Vice President, Human Resources & Communications, RQHR