



TO: Clinical Care Providers, c/o the Saskatchewan Senior Medical Officer Committee
Transfusion Lab Staff, c/o of the Saskatchewan Transfusion Medicine Working Group

FROM: Dr. O. Prokopchuk-Gauk, Northern Saskatchewan Consultant, Transfusion Medicine
Dr. D. Ledingham, Southern Saskatchewan Consultant, Transfusion Medicine

DATE: October 19, 2017

RE: **CMV seronegative blood component availability in Saskatchewan**

MEMORANDUM

This is an update to the memorandum dated July 11, 2016 regarding transfusion of CMV seronegative blood components to adult patients, which summarized the evidence supporting transfusion of leukoreduced-only ('CMV safe') blood.

Effective immediately, all orders for CMV seronegative cellular blood components for patients in Saskatchewan will be substituted with leukoreduced-only ('CMV safe') blood components.

Published transfusion medicine literature supports pre-storage leukoreduction alone as an effective transfusion-transmitted CMV risk-reduction strategy. Earlier this year, the National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products (NAC) released a statement regarding appropriateness of CMV seronegative blood transfusion, including a recommendation that "CMV safe (leukoreduced) and CMV IgG seronegative products can be considered *equivalent* except for intrauterine transfusion."

In accordance with this NAC recommendation, Canadian Blood Services issued a customer letter on September 6, 2017 (CL-2017-36) informing hospitals that routine donor testing for anti-CMV antibodies will be stopped as of October 23, 2017. A small inventory of CMV seronegative donor blood will be maintained by CBS for the sole purpose of intrauterine transfusion, as the single approved indication for transfusion of CMV seronegative, leukoreduced cellular blood components. Of note, intrauterine transfusion procedures are not performed in any Saskatchewan facilities.

For additional information about blood transfusion and CMV risk, several reference materials including slide decks and video presentations are available online at:

- <https://professionaleducation.blood.ca/en/transfusion/best-practices/use-cytomegalovirus-cmv-seronegative-blood-products>
- <http://www.nacblood.ca/resources/guidelines/CMV.html>

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact one of us:

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Thank you for sharing this message with your colleagues, and for your partnership in Transfusion Safety.