

MEMO

DATE: 3/17/20

TO: Saskatchewan Clinical Care Providers
Saskatchewan Hospital Laboratories

FROM: Dr. Sheila Rutledge Harding, Provincial Clinical Lead, Transfusion Medicine
Tammy Mason, Provincial Administrative Lead, Transfusion Medicine

RE: GREEN PHASE ADVISORY AFFECTING BLOOD INVENTORY

Dear Colleagues:

Canadian Blood Services (CBS) has declared a **Green Phase Blood Shortage Advisory impacting ALL blood groups and plasma protein products**. Decreased donor attendance due to the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the security of our national blood supply. The labile blood components at most immediate risk of possible shortage are platelets and Group O Negative red blood cells (RBC).

Please see the appended CBS Shortage Advisory for details.

Health care decisions in the face of balancing healthcare resources in the face of this pandemic, such as cancellations of elective procedures, will help with balancing demand for blood. Adherence with strategies to ensure optimal utilization of fresh blood components is essential to ensure the availability of supply for patients requiring transfusion in urgent or emergent situations. We encourage everyone to review our provincial Transfusion Best Practice Recommendations in Adult Patients, found here: <http://saskblood.ca/transfusion-best-practice-recommendations/>

The existing blood supply in Saskatchewan will be monitored carefully. We request your cooperation with implementation of the following strategies to help protect our inventory:

Red Blood Cells:

- The decision to transfuse RBC should be in accordance with a restrictive strategy.
- Requests for more than one unit of RBC for hospitalized patients who are not actively bleeding will be screened by the Transfusion Medicine Physician on-call.
- In the setting of new patients with hemorrhage, please ensure blood group specimens are drawn on arrival to allow for provision of group specific RBC as soon as possible.
 - Uncrossmatched Group O Negative RBC will be issued for transfusion to women under 50 years of age;
 - Uncrossmatched Group O Positive RBC will be issued to men and women 50 and older, in accordance with best practice recommendations;

Safety | Accountability | Respect | Collaboration | Compassion

With a commitment to a philosophy of Patient and Family Centred Care

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- If a patient is likely to require significant (greater than 4 units) of Group O Negative RBC, please notify your local blood bank of the situation as soon as possible, to ensure appropriate preparedness and component availability.

Platelets:

- All requests for transfusion of platelets will be screened by the Transfusion Medicine Physician on-call.
- Activation of Massive Transfusion/Hemorrhage Protocol in Saskatoon and Regina will not routinely include a unit of platelets in Box 1. Issue of the platelet unit in Box 1 will be dependent on the individual clinical needs of the patient.

At this time, plasma protein products (including factor concentrates, immunoglobulins, subcutaneous immune globulin, C1 esterase inhibitor) are in good supply within Canada. Clinical care providers for patients on home infusion products should notify patients to request their usual order refill when they have **4 weeks** of supply remaining.

This situation is rapidly evolving, and this advisory remains in effect until further notice. It is anticipated that this advisory will be in effect for at least the next week. Further communication and updates will be forthcoming.


Full details of the National Plan for Management of Shortages of Labile Blood Components can be found at <https://nacblood.ca/resources/shortages-plan/index.html>

Blood donation is encouraged to help Canadian Blood Services replenish their supply. Please visit www.blood.ca for information. A special section on COVID-19 is included for donor information.

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 table below).

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

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

ATTACH: