

Date: June 16, 2023

To: All Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) Transfusion Medicine Laboratory Personnel

From: Dr. Oksana Prokopchuk-Gauk, Provincial Clinical Lead, Transfusion Medicine

Re: Response to the Green Phase Advisory issued by the National Emergency Blood Management Committee, dated June 15, 2023

PLEASE POST AND DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- A *Green Phase Advisory* was declared by the National Emergency Blood Management Committee (NEBMC) on June 15, 2023 due to concern with inventory levels of all red blood cell (RBC) groups, with an emphasis on Group O and A RBC. (See attachment)
- All Transfusion Medicine Laboratories (TMLs) shall report inventory levels of all RBC blood groups to Canadian Blood Services (CBS) by **1000 CST daily**, until further notice.
 - Hospital inventory is to be reported via the CBS Blood Component and Product Disposition System at <https://myhospital.blood.ca>
- All TMLs shall continue to observe [best practices](#) in the use of RBC, including technologist screening of RBC unit orders for appropriateness.
- When emergency uncrossmatched RBC units are requested, Group O Positive RBC shall be issued to all male patients ≥ 17 years of age and all female patients ≥ 50 years of ages, even if they are known to be Rh Negative.
 - Group O Negative RBC shall only be issued to female patients < 50 years of age and male patients < 17 years of age;
- Whenever circumstances permit, group specific RBC shall be provided to patients.
- The TMP on-call shall be notified if:
 - Any patient receives 4 RBC units in a 24-hour period.
 - Any Rh negative patient requires more than 2 RBC units due to ongoing bleeding.
- **Where feasible, TMLs that stock more than 6 units of any individual RBC blood groups should decrease RBC group-specific inventory levels into the *Green Phase Advisory* range, based on calculated Inventory Indices.**
 - Contact the Transfusion Medicine Physician (TMP) on-call to discuss site-specific inventory modification, as required.

Why this is important:

- Given the potential for rapid changes in collections and inventory levels, daily and monitoring of national RBC supply is critical.
- In the case of patients with higher than usual RBC needs, timely notification of the on-call TMP will enable clinical consultation with the ordering physician, which will help to provide optimal care for individual patients while ensuring prudent stewardship of vulnerable inventory.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

The on-call Transfusion Medicine Physician:

- Saskatoon and Northern Saskatchewan: 306-655-1000
- Regina and Southern Saskatchewan: 306-766-4444