

## MEMO

**DATE:** June 7, 2023

**TO:** Saskatchewan Physicians, Nurses and Laboratory Staff

**FROM:** Dr. Oksana Prokopchuk-Gauk, Provincial Transfusion Medicine Discipline – Clinical Lead  
Ms. Tammy Neuwirth, Provincial Transfusion Medicine Discipline – Administrative Lead

**RE:** Pathogen Inactivated Blood Component Introduction and Upcoming Information Sessions

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Transfusion Medicine (TM) Laboratories throughout Saskatchewan receive blood components and blood products from Canadian Blood Services (CBS). As a result of active initiatives to enhance patient safety, CBS is introducing pathogen inactivated technology (PIT) psoralen-treated pooled platelets as a part of their standard blood inventory. Restrictions on the availability of Solvent Detergent (S/D) plasma have also been lifted.

### **Pathogen Inactivated Technology (PIT) Psoralen-Treated Pooled Platelets**

Implementation of these PIT platelets in Saskatchewan is currently targeted for July 10, 2023. For the first 3 months following introduction, distribution of the PIT platelets will be limited to Saskatoon and Regina, and dependent on CBS inventory availability (specific requests for PIT platelets cannot be made). Processes for platelet orders from CBS remain unchanged. Rural sites will begin receiving PIT platelets once lab information system code builds are completed.

**In preparation for the PIT psoralen-treated pooled platelet roll-out, a series of online information sessions have been scheduled which are open to all healthcare providers and lab technologists.** At these meetings, CBS Medical Officers will be present to answer questions about PIT platelets, discuss available educational resources and review hospital considerations. You are invited to attend any one of the following four sessions (approx. 30 minutes each):

- June 14, 2023 @ 1200 h
- June 21, 2023 @ 1500 h
- June 22, 2023 @ 1200 h
- June 27, 2023 @ 1100 h

If you have not yet received an email invitation from our Saskatchewan CBS Hospital Liaison Specialist, Ms. Michele Burns, please send her an email at [michele.burns@blood.ca](mailto:michele.burns@blood.ca) and indicate which date you would like to attend.

Information about PIT platelets is available in the [Clinical Guide to Transfusion, Chapter 19](#) and the [FAQ](#) document.

### **Solvent Detergent (S/D) Plasma**

A provincial strategy for transition of frozen plasma stock to S/D plasma is currently in development. A staged transition is planned throughout the summer months, with transition planned to occur first in Saskatoon and Regina hospitals. Communications with laboratory services and clinical care departments are forthcoming.

Information about S/D plasma can be found in the [CBS Professional Education](#) publication and the [FAQ](#) document.

Questions can be directed to the Transfusion Medicine Physician on-call at 306-655-1000 (Saskatoon/North Saskatchewan) or 306-766-4444 (Regina/South Saskatchewan). Thank you for your attention.

## **Safety | Accountability | Respect | Collaboration | Compassion**

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

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