

DATE:	2021 October 18
TO:	North Zone Alberta Physicians, Outpatient / IV Therapy Clinics
FROM:	North Zone Pathologists, North Zone Transfusion Safety Officer
RE:	Immune Globulin Screening and Approval Process – North Zone

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Key Message

- Due to the previously communicated impending shortage in the global supply of immunoglobulin (Ig) products, North Zone will be implementing a screening and approval process for any orders of Ig products, effective October 27, 2021. This change applies to both current and new orders.
 - [Global Shortage of Intravenous Immunoglobulin \(IVIg\) \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/global-shortage-of-intravenous-immunoglobulin-ivig/)
 - [Updated IVIG Resources on AHS Transfusion Medicine Website \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/updated-ivig-resources-on-ahs-transfusion-medicine-website/)
- All new and renewal IVIG orders will be screened.
- Transfusion Medicine will contact the ordering provider for all orders not meeting approved criteria.

Background

- Ig product orders often originate from specialists in urban locations and are facilitated by local physicians.
- It is the responsibility of the ordering physician to ensure appropriateness of use.

Action Required

- For patients currently prescribed Immune Globulin.
 - Ensure clinical indication and dosing is up to date and meets approved criteria. All orders must be renewed at least annually.
 - Refer to previous bulletin for details - [Global Shortage of Intravenous Immunoglobulin \(IVIg\) \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/global-shortage-of-intravenous-immunoglobulin-ivig/)
- Prior to presenting for Ig products, all patients will need to have a new IVIg order placed in Connect Care or using the [IVIG Request Form](#).
 - The following elements are required for approval: Indication, Total Dose (not to exceed 100g/24 hours), Frequency, Patient Height, Patient Weight.
 - Send completed IVIg Request Forms to the Laboratory for screening and approval.

Effective October 27, 2021

Questions/Concerns

- Queen Elizabeth II Hospital (and rural North Zone facilities): Dr. Brent Mendez – Allen.Mendez@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- Northern Lights Regional Health Centre: Dr. Grant Sigurdson – Grant.Sigurdson@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
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Approved by

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- Dr Grant Sigurdson, DynaLIFE Dx Diagnostic Laboratory Services, Director of Transfusion Medicine for Northern Lights Regional Health Centre, Northwest Health Center and St. Theresa General Hospital
- Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Interim Provincial Transfusion and Transplantation Medical / Scientific Director- APL
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