

<b>DATE:</b>	2021 November 1
<b>TO:</b>	Hospital Physicians, Clinical Staff and Laboratory Staff located at Cardston Health Centre, Crowsnest Pass Health Centre, Pincher Creek Health Centre, Taber Health Centre; Transfusion Medicine Staff at Chinook Regional Hospital
<b>FROM:</b>	APL Transfusion & Transplant Medicine Program
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Removal of Frozen Plasma from Cardston, Crowsnest Pass, Pincher Creek and Taber</b>

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Message

- Effective January 1, 2022, frozen plasma (FP or FFP) will no longer be stocked on-site at the hospital sites of Cardston, Crowsnest Pass, Pincher Creek and Taber.

### Background

- A recent review of the overall utilization and appropriateness of plasma for the last year has demonstrated plasma is not a commonly used product and in many situations a more appropriate product should have been used. Compliance with standards on the storage and handling of plasma at these sites has also been flagged as a concern. Stakeholder consultation was performed at the Quarterly Transfusion Medicine Committee on September 22, 2021 to help identify risks and barriers to removing this therapeutic agent from these facilities.

### How this will impact you

For urgent coagulopathy management the following products are available:

- Prothrombin Complex Concentrate can be ordered using the test code "PROCOMP" in Meditech, but does require provision of clinical information such as: list of anticoagulants, patient weight, and indication.
- Fibrinogen Concentrate can be ordered using the test code "FIB, TRANSFUSE PRODUCT" in Meditech.
  - Fibrinogen Concentrate inventory at these sites will be increased to 8g.

### Action Required

A Transfusion Medicine Physician is available on-call to discuss other transfusion supports as needed. Contact your local laboratory to reach the TM physician on call.

Familiarize yourself with the coagulopathy management options available at your site:

#### Prothrombin Complex Concentrates (PCC)

- Also known as Beriplex and Octaplex – are the recommended and most effective method for rapid reversal of vitamin K antagonists. Plasma is no longer considered appropriate in this clinical situation due to the time constraints around the thawing and administration of plasma, in addition to the risk of hypervolemia and other transfusion adverse events.
- May also be considered as bypassing agents for patients on direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) who present with major bleeding. They are also considered therapy. The INR based dosing that is used for vitamin K antagonists is NOT the same dosing regimen that would be used for the DOACs. Consultation with the Transfusion Medicine Physician on call in this situation is available to assist with the dosing and appropriateness.



### **Fibrinogen Concentrate (RiaSTAP)**

- Fibrinogen replacement plays an important role in the management of massive bleeding in traumas or obstetrical hemorrhages as well as managing patients with other causes of disseminated intravascular coagulopathy. Fibrinogen levels are not required prior to administration in patients who are presenting with major bleeding where a dose of 4 grams of fibrinogen concentrate would be considered appropriate as the initial dose.

Refer to blood product monographs to familiarize with PCCs and Fibrinogen Concentrate  
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/lab/page3319.aspx>

### **Questions/Concerns may be directed to**

- Bailey Blake, Transfusion Safety Officer South Zone, 403-388-6054, [bailey.philippotblake@aplabs.ca](mailto:bailey.philippotblake@aplabs.ca)
- Dr. Barbara Popma, South Zone West Transfusion Medicine Pathologist, 403-388-6153, [Barbara.Popma@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:Barbara.Popma@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)

### **Approved by**

- Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Interim Provincial Transfusion and Transplantation Medical/Scientific Lead – APL
- Dr. Barbara Popma, South Zone West Transfusion Medicine Physician
- Dr. Krishna Narra, Regional Laboratory Medicine Site Chief, Chinook Regional Hospital – APL

### **References**

- Additional resources are available at the National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood products [National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products \(NAC\) \(nacblood.ca\)](http://nacblood.ca)