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| DATE: | 26 May 2025 |
| TO: | Provincial: All Clinical Staff, Physicians, Nurses, and Healthcare Practitioners |
| FROM: | Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Provincial Program |
| RE: | Provincial Transfusion Medicine Blood Inventory Level Updates |

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- The National Emergency Blood Management Committee (NEBMC) is requiring enhanced hemovigilance from provinces due to chronic blood shortages and has set national targets for specific blood groups as well as providing advice on the appropriate management of O Rh(D) negative red cells which are the most tenuous in supply.
- Some of these best practices have been variable in their implementation across the province so Alberta Precision Laboratories has created the Transfusion Medicine **Provincial InVentory Optimization Team** (PIVOT) to assist with review and optimization of inventory practices.
- PIVOT has assessed each site for their optimal inventory based on Average Daily Demand, compliance with national recommendations on inventory indices while considering clinical services provided (e.g. obstetrics, vascular), distance to restock, and the blood groups of chronically transfused patients treated at the site.
- Some sites may see changes in the number of units and the blood groups being stocked for transfusion and emergency support.
 - Unmatched red cells may be O Rh(D) positive, O Rh(D) negative or blood group specific depending on patient factors and inventory availability. Clinicians should be requesting units for emergency transfusion in the absence of pretransfusion testing as “Unmatched red cells” rather than “O negative” to allow the most appropriate unit to be provided without unnecessary delay.
 - Ongoing transition to O positive only for emergency stock to smaller facilities with no obstetric programs will commence for applicable Central Zone sites that did not transition to this recommended practice when the rest of the province did over the preceding 10 years.
 - Transfusion Medicine will continue to monitor Rh mismatch reports to assess the need for changes in individual patient follow-up monitoring and care.
 - Some sites may see increased red cell stock inventory to facilitate remote crossmatching to improve turnaround times for unit availability.

Key Message

- Effective May 22, 2025, all sites across the province will be stocking red cells in accordance with recommendations from the NEBMC and PIVOT to optimize the appropriate utilization of a scarce national resource.
- Clinicians should request “unmatched units” when pretransfusion testing is not available rather than requesting a specific blood group. Receipt of O Rh(D) positive units as unmatched is not an error and should not be refused.
- Clinicians should identify potential patients who will be chronically transfused at their facility to allow for stocking of group specific red cell inventory.



How this will impact you

- Potential change in the blood group of unmatched blood provided by Transfusion Medicine (e.g. O RhD Positive vs O RhD Negative vs. Group Specific).

Action Required

- Create awareness of the need to place emergency blood orders verbally by phone by stating “I am requesting **unmatched** red cells” with the number of units and the patient identifiers / alias information.
- Create awareness of Blood Inventory Levels at the facilities where you work.
- Notify the transfusion service of any patients that are anticipated to require chronic transfusion.

Effective May 22, 2025

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

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