

<b>DATE:</b>	2 September 2025
<b>TO:</b>	Provincial: Outpatient Areas: Clinical Staff, Physicians, Nurses, and Healthcare Practitioners
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Provincial Program
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Draw and Hold for Pretransfusion Testing for Stable Outpatients</b>

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## Key Message

- To streamline outpatient blood collection processes and scheduling of transfusion activity, a workflow for a Draw and Hold option for pretransfusion type and screen samples is available for stable outpatients who may potentially require a red blood cell transfusion. **The Transfusion Service Identification Number (TSIN) system must still be used when collecting the specimen.**

## Background

- Ordering a Draw and Hold TSIN sample (Blood Bank) allows the provider to review the CBC/hemoglobin results before deciding whether the Type and Screen is necessary. If the hemoglobin level is above the transfusion threshold and the patient is unlikely to require a transfusion within the next 96 hours, there can be avoidance of red cell inventory tie ups and unnecessary Type and Screen testing.
- When a clinician places an order for a **Draw and Hold TSIN sample (Blood Bank)**, the sample is collected, received and stored in the Transfusion Medicine (TM) department. **Testing will not occur on the specimen until further action is taken by the clinician.**
  - If the clinician **does not** wish to convert the Draw and Hold to a Type and Screen no further action is required.
  - If the clinician **does** want to convert the Draw and Hold to a Type and Screen, they must place a **Type and Screen** order in Epic as an add-on to the Draw and Hold specimen.
- If the sample is within 88 hours of collection, Epic will allow the new order to be added to the existing Draw and Hold specimen.
- Patients with either a Draw and Hold or an active Type and Screen will both have a TSIN band applied.
- However, the presence of a TSIN band does not confirm that a Type and Screen has been completed.
- To ensure your patient has an active Type and Screen, you must either:
  - Check Chart Review to confirm the test was ordered and completed, or
  - Verify the TSIN expiry date on the patient storyboard
- This step is especially important before requesting red blood cells for transfusion, as a Draw and Hold alone does not guarantee that testing has been done.

## Action Required

- Ordering a Draw and Hold TSIN sample (Blood Bank) will not result in any testing in Transfusion Medicine. Once the clinician adds the Type and Screen Order to the Draw and Hold specimen,



pretransfusion testing (Blood group and Antibody Screen) will be completed and crossmatched red blood cells can be requested.

- Note: Once the Draw and Hold has been converted to a Type and Screen, crossmatched units will still take at least one hour to complete.
- A Draw and Hold specimen must be collected following the same process as collecting a Type and Screen specimen, i.e. use of a TSIN card and banding the patient.
- Refer to the Type and Screen Connect Care Quick Start Guide (search CC1948 in Insite search engine)

### **Effective**

- Immediately

### **Questions/Concerns**

- APL Transfusion Safety Team - [Transfusion.SafetyTeam@aplabs.ca](mailto:Transfusion.SafetyTeam@aplabs.ca)

### **Approved by**

- Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Medical Director, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program