

DATE:	4 August 2026
TO:	Physicians and Nursing Staff at Facilities with Massive Hemorrhage Protocol
FROM:	Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program (TTM)
RE:	New Blood Storage Containers (MHP and Blood in Box)

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Key Message

- Alberta Precision Laboratories' (APL) Transfusion Medicine (TM) Service will be implementing new intrahospital storage containers for out of lab storage of blood components in Massive Hemorrhage Protocol (MHP) kits and approved Blood in Box (BIB) requests.

Background

- APL is standardizing storage containers used within hospitals to ensure blood components are kept at the required temperature during out of lab storage. If required for patient support, these new containers have been permitted for use in operating room theatres by Infection Prevention and Control.
- The following sites will be implementing new containers: Alberta Children's Hospital, Foothills Medical Centre, Peter Lougheed Hospital, Rockyview General Hospital, South Health Campus, Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, Red Deer Regional Hospital, Northern Lights Regional Health Centre and Grande Prairie Regional Hospital.
- Although similar containers have been used for MHPs in Edmonton area hospitals, users in those facilities may see containers with updated appearance as replacement units are introduced.

Action Required (See pictures below)

- When activating an [MHP](#) or requesting BIB, be aware the blood components will be arriving in the new storage containers. *Note containers will be visually differentiated based on the request for MHP vs BIB.*
 - Do NOT add blood components issued separately to the storage container.
 - Do NOT merge blood components from other containers into one for ease of transport.
 - Return storage containers to the Transfusion Medicine Service ASAP when no longer required.
- Phase Change Materials are used to form chambers that keep blood components at the required storage temperature. These materials require time to recharge before they can be reused, so timely return of storage containers and their contents when no longer required will ensure support can be provided to subsequent patients.
 - Red Blood Cells (RBC) and Plasma units will be placed within the chambers, or around the sides/top of the chambers within the storage container.
 - If a platelet unit is being provided for a MHP, it will be placed in the external pouch located on front of the container, labelled PLATELET.
 - Ensure platelets are not added to either the chamber or cooler.
- Patient Care Units will be required to purchase replacements for any materials not returned to the laboratory.



Container and Phase
Change Materials



Chamber within cooler (lid
open) containing RBC



Plasma on top of
chamber lid



Platelet Pouch



Outside of the
container-front view



Outside of the
container-back view

Effective 04Aug2026

Questions/Concerns

- April Hillman, Manager South Sector, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program
- Nada Nsier, Manager North Sector, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program
- Tanya McKelvey, Transfusion Medicine Discipline Lead

Approved by

- Dr Susan Nahirniak, Medical Director, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program
- Nada Nsier, Manager North Sector, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program