

DATE:	31 August 2026
TO:	All Clinical, Medical, and Laboratory Staff, All Zones
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine
RE:	Updates to TSIN Card

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Updates have been made to the Transfusion Service Identification Number (TSIN) card system. The updated TSIN cards will be implemented provincially beginning in the fall of 2026 as existing TSIN card inventory is depleted. Current and new TSIN cards will be accepted, provided they are completed with no errors/omissions. There is no need to discard the current forms.

Background

- The most common cause of acute hemolytic transfusion reactions is a clerical or patient identification error.
- The Transfusion Service Identification Number (TSIN) system provides unequivocal patient and blood product identification from “vein to vein.” It establishes a traceable link between the patient’s pre-transfusion type and screen specimen, transfusion medicine laboratory testing, and the transfusion of compatible red blood cells.
- Due to a high frequency of errors when completing TSIN cards, the instructions have been relocated to the front of the card and simplified.
- The collection date is no longer required on the TSIN wristband.
- Clarification that “Rover PPID” is limited to Laboratory staff.
- A comparison of the previous and updated TSIN card versions is provided on page 2 of this bulletin.

Action Required

- Follow the pre-transfusion type and screen specimen collection procedure provided on the form to ensure proper patient identification, specimen labeling, and completion of the TSIN form. Specimens that are improperly or incompletely labeled will be rejected and must be recollected.

Effective

- 01SEPT2026

Questions/Concerns

- APL Transfusion Safety Team: Transfusion.SafetyTeam@aplabs.ca

Approved by

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



Comparison of Previous and Updated TSIN Cards

Previous TSIN Card

The previous TSIN Card form is divided into two main sections: 'Collection Record' on the left and 'Transfusion Service Identification Number' on the right. The 'Collection Record' section includes a barcode, a box for patient information (Last Name, First Name, DOB, pMRN/PHN), and a section for identification (Witness, Patient Self, or Rover PPID). The 'Transfusion Service Identification Number' section includes a barcode, a box for specimen information (Specimen ID #), and a section for transfusion-related information (ABORH, K Neg, P-CABO, etc.). Annotations include a blue circle around the 'Transfusion Service Identification Number' section, a red circle around the 'Collection Record' section, and a blue circle around the 'Identified by' section. Arrows point to the 'Apply label to tube' and 'Apply label to tube' sections.

New TSIN Card

The new TSIN Card form is divided into two main sections: 'Collection Record' on the left and 'Transfusion Service Identification Number' on the right. The 'Collection Record' section includes a barcode, a box for patient information (Last Name, First Name, DOB, pMRN/PHN), and a section for identification (Patient Self, Witness, or Rover PPID). The 'Transfusion Service Identification Number' section includes a barcode, a box for specimen information (Specimen ID #), and a section for transfusion-related information (ABORH, K Neg, P-CABO, etc.). Annotations include a blue circle around the 'Transfusion Service Identification Number' section, a red circle around the 'Collection Record' section, and a blue circle around the 'Identified by' section. Arrows point to the 'Apply label to tube' and 'Apply label to tube' sections.

1. **Identified by:** rearranged options, and included "Lab only" for Rover PPID
2. Increased font size and arrows; arrows red in colour
3. Removed Coll Date on TSIN band
4. Moved instructions from back of form to front