



Date: November 16, 2020
To: South Health Campus (SHC): Operating Room (OR) Physicians, SHC OR Nursing Unit Managers, SHC OR Nursing Staff, SHC PACU, SHC Patient Care Unit 76, SHC Portering
From: Transfusion Medicine (TM), South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
Re: Decommissioning Blood Storage Refrigerator at SHC OR

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Key Message:

- Effective **November 23, 2020**, the blood storage refrigerator at SHC OR will be decommissioned.

Background:

- This change is being implemented in response to a Health Canada citation for failing to adequately track and monitor blood products and components in and out of satellite refrigerators.
- Current blood storage refrigerators external to TM departments are being eliminated due to these Health Canada requirements.

Action Required:

- *For Surgeons and/or Anesthesiologists:*
 - Order Type and Screen and red blood cells (RBCs), as per usual practice.
 - RBCs will be prepared and stored in TM refrigerator until requested.
- *For Nursing staff:*
 - Pre-operatively in SCM, dispense *On Standby RBCs* or order *OR Only RBCs*, as per usual practice.
 - In SCM, under “Additional Information to TM” when dispensing, indicate “PACU” or “OR”.
 - When the need for transfusion arises, call TM (6-1344). RBCs will be sent immediately via the pneumatic tube system (PTS). Up to 2 RBC units can be sent via each PTS carrier.
 - Retrieve RBCs from PTS carrier.
 - On average, delivery should occur within 3-5 minutes.

Additional Information:

- For cases requiring multiple blood products/components or deemed to be high risk, blood products/components can be sent to OR and stored in TM-validated blood boxes.
 - Call TM to request a transport box or indicate this need in “Additional Information to TM” when dispensing.
 - Boxes will be sealed and are not to be opened until the blood will be transfused.
- Any unused products must be returned to TM via portering, not PTS.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Myrna Gusdal, SHC Technologist II Transfusion Medicine, 403-956-1430, Myrna.Gusdal@aplabs.ca
- Nicole Gettle, Calgary Transfusion Safety Leader (Interim), 403-944-6399, Nicole.Gettle@aplabs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

- Leland Baskin, MD, FCAP, FAACC, Associate Medical Director, South Sector