



Date: January 11, 2021
To: Foothills Medical Centre (FMC) Emergency Department (ED) – FMC ED Physicians, FMC ED Nursing Unit Managers, FMC ED Nursing Staff, FMC Portering
From: Susan Nahirniak MD, FRCPC Divisional Director / Section Chief, Transfusion Medicine, APL – North & South Sector
Re: Decommissioning of Blood Storage Refrigerator at FMC Emergency Department (ED)

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Key Message:

- Effective **January 15, 2021**, Unmatched Red Blood Cells (RBC) will no longer be stored in the refrigerator at FMC Emergency Department. (ED)

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 Transfusion Medicine (TM) departments are being eliminated due to these Health Canada requirements

Action Required:

- Unmatched RBC will be dispensed as requested and delivered via Pneumatic Tube System (PTS) when ready to begin the infusion
- Additional units of unmatched RBC can be sent to the ED in a validated transport cooler if required for cases of massive hemorrhage
- RBC **must** be returned to TM within 60 minutes if they will not be used
- RBC must be fully infused within 4 hours of dispense from TM

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Joanna McCarthy, Regional Tech III APL Transfusion Medicine 403-944-8466, joanna.mccarthy@aplabs.ca
- Nicole Gettle, Calgary Zone Transfusion Safety Leader, 403-944-6399, Nicole.Gettle@aplabs.ca
- Dr. Susan Nahirniak FRCPC Divisional Director / Section Chief, Transfusion Medicine, APL – North & South Sector susan.nahirniak@aplabs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

- Susan Nahirniak MD, FRCPC Divisional Director / Section Chief, Transfusion Medicine, APL – North & South Sector