



Date: February 22, 2021
To: Peter Loughheed (PLC) Day Medicine – PLC Day Medicine Physicians, PLC Day Medicine Nursing Unit Managers, PLC Day Medicine Nursing Staff, PLC Portering
From: Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) Transfusion Medicine
Re: Discontinuation of Blood Storage Refrigerator at PLC Day Medicine

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective **March 1, 2021** the Blood Refrigerator will no longer be used to store Red Blood Cells (RBC) in the Day Medicine Department at PLC

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:

- RBC will be dispensed “on demand” when ready to begin the infusion
- RBC will be dispensed one unit at a time, and **must** be returned to Transfusion Medicine within 60 minutes if they will not be used
- RBC must be fully infused within 4 hours of dispense from Transfusion Medicine
- No changes will be made to the dispense process for other blood components or products

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Nancy Erickson, APL Transfusion Medicine, PLC Tech II 403-943-4327, Nancy.erickson@aplabs.ca
- Nicole Gettle, Calgary Transfusion Safety Leader (Interim), 403-944-6399, Nicole.Gettle@aplabs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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