

DATE:	2021 August 9
TO:	Peter Lougheed (PLC): Operating Room (OR) Physicians and Nurses, and Portering Staff
FROM:	Transfusion Medicine (TM), Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Discontinuation of Blood Storage Refrigerator at PLC OR

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Key Message

- Effective **August 30, 2021**, blood components and products will be transported to the OR in sealed coolers instead of storing blood components or products in the OR at PLC.
- Boxes are **not** to be opened until immediately prior to transfusion.
- There will be no change to the process of ordering blood components or products.

Background

- Current blood storage refrigerators external to TM departments are being eliminated to fulfill Health Canada requirements for monitoring blood products and components.

Action Required

- Blood Transport boxes can be stored in operating theatres. They will be decontaminated upon return to TM.
- Patient information and contents will be on the exterior of the box for initial clerical check. Full clerical checks are to be done **immediately** prior to transfusing.
- As soon as the case is complete, boxes must be returned to TM due to limited supply.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

- Janice Gosling, APL Regional Tech III APL Transfusion Medicine, 403-956-1425, janice.gosling@aplabs.ca
- Nancy Erickson, APL Transfusion Medicine, PLC Tech II, 403-943-4327, nancy.erickson@aplabs.ca
- Nicole Gettle, Calgary Transfusion Safety Leader, 403-944-6399, nicole.gettle@aplabs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

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