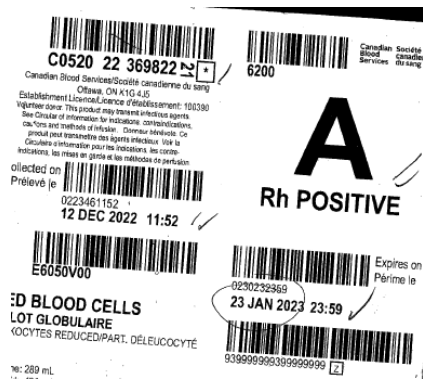


DATE:	21 February 2023
TO:	Provincial – Acute Care sites, Physicians and Nurse Practitioners.
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) Transfusion Medicine (TM)
RE:	Ink and Adhesives on Blood Products

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- The use of ink (pen, marker, highlighter, etc) or non-approved adhesives on blood components (labels and bags) affects their integrity and renders them unsuitable for transfusion. Waste of blood products is occurring because of this practice.



Background

- Health Canada regulations state that labels attached to blood products be made only using adhesive and inks that will not permeate the container. When a product is returned to TM with ink or non-approved adhesives that are not applied by Canadian Blood Services (CBS) or the TM laboratory, they will be discarded.

[Guidance Document: Blood Regulations - Canada.ca](#) Section 61.

Action Required

- Do not mark blood component labels or bags.
- Ensure that no adhesives come into contact with blood components.

Effective Immediately

Questions/Concerns

- Alberta Transfusion Safety Team transfusion.safetyteam@aplabs.ca

Approved by

- Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Medical Director, APL Provincial Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program, susan.nahirniak@aplabs.ca