



**Date:** January 11, 2021  
**To:** ACH ORs, OR Nursing Staff, OR Unit Managers, Portering  
**From:** Susan Nahirniak MD, FRCPC Divisional Director / Section Chief, Transfusion Medicine, APL – North & South Sector  
**Re:** Pneumatic Tube System (PTS) for blood component and blood product delivery to ACH OR

---

**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

---

**Key Message:**

- **Effective January 11, 2021 ACH Transfusion Medicine (TM) will begin delivery of blood components and/or blood products to the OR via the Pneumatic Tube System (PTS)**
- **Storage of Albumin will be in TM and sent by PTS upon request.**

**Background:**

- This change is being implemented in response to a Health Canada citation for failing to adequately track and monitor blood products/components in and out of satellite refrigerators.
- Current blood storage refrigerators external to TM departments are being eliminated due to these Health Canada requirements.
- Albumin usage has been audited and is transfused in ACH OR on average once per year.

**Action Required:**

- **Surgeons and/or Anesthesiologists**
  - Order Type and Screen and Red Blood Cells (RBC) **as per usual practice.**
  - RBCs will be prepared and stored in TM refrigerator until requested.
- **Nursing staff**
  - Pre-operatively in SCM, dispense *On Standby RBCs* or order *OR Only RBCs as per usual practice*. Indicate 'PACU' or "OR" in SCM, in "Additional Information to TM" when dispensing.
  - **When need for transfusion arises call TM.** RBCs will be sent immediately via PTS. Up to 2 RBC units can be sent via each PTS carrier.

**Additional Information:**

- For cases requiring multiple blood products/components or deemed to be high risk for significant hemorrhage, blood products/components can be sent to OR and stored in TM validated blood transport boxes on a case by case approval process.
  - To initiate this process, verbally request a transport box from TM or indicate this need in "Additional Information to TM" when dispensing. Boxes will be sealed and are not to be opened until the blood components are needed for transfusion. Blood components returned in boxes with broken seals will be discarded.
  - Regular audits of this process and monitoring of wastage will occur.



**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

- Joanna McCarthy, Regional Tech III APL Transfusion Medicine 403-944-8466, [joanna.mccarthy@aplabs.ca](mailto:joanna.mccarthy@aplabs.ca)
- Sharon Nishi, Transfusion Medicine Tech II ACH 403-955-2324, [sharon.nishi@aplabs.ca](mailto:sharon.nishi@aplabs.ca)
- Nicole Gettle, Calgary Transfusion Safety Leader, 403-944-6399, [nicole.gettle@aplabs.ca](mailto: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