

DATE:	21 August 2023
TO:	South Zone Outpatient Transfusion floors
FROM:	South Zone Transfusion Medicine
RE:	Post Transfusion Education Requirements for Outpatients

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- As per the provincial Transfusion of Blood Components and Blood Products Policy patient education is required for all transfusions:
 - Health care professionals must provide education to patients about signs and symptoms of a transfusion reaction.
 - For patients who are discharged following a transfusion or are part of a Home Transfusion program, the health care professional must provide additional education, including but not limited to, on when to seek medical attention and with whom to report a transfusion reaction.
- The following resources are available for nursing to provide to patients:
 - [Blood Transfusions for Adults \(alberta.ca\)](#)
 - [Blood Transfusion Reactions: Learning about blood transfusion reactions \(alberta.ca\)](#)
 - [607757 Transfusion Reaction Information for Patients \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)
- The provincial Transfusion of Blood Components and Blood Products Policy also states the requirement that a health care professional document patient teaching provided in the patient's health record.

Background

- During the June 2023 College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) South Zone Laboratory accreditation, a citation was received regarding CPSA standard TM.11.3.4 which states "Transfusion recipients are appropriately monitored and managed". During the inspection the assessor identified a gap in which patients receiving outpatient transfusions are not routinely provided post transfusion care information and/or education.

How this will impact you

- Ensure patients are given the appropriate education post transfusion of blood components and products. A conversation post transfusion regarding signs and symptoms for transfusion reactions is required after each appointment. Ensure documentation of this conversation is charted on the patient's health record. Dependant on the patient and the component transfused additional information can be printed.
- The following resources have been developed for patient education regarding transfusion care:
 - [Blood Transfusions for Adults \(alberta.ca\)](#)
 - [Blood Transfusion Reactions: Learning about blood transfusion reactions \(alberta.ca\)](#)
 - [607757 Transfusion Reaction Information for Patients \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)

Note: Post Launch 7 this information will be provided in Epic in the patient's After Summary Visit discharge report.



Action Required

- Please ensure that all patients receiving transfusions are provided the appropriate post transfusion education and this conversation is documented on the patient's chart.

Effective Immediately

Questions/Concerns

- Kelsey Jakobsen, South Zone Transfusion Safety Officer

Approved by

- Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Medical Director, APL Provincial Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program
- Patricia Boutilier, South Sector APL Provincial Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program Manager