

DATE:	2021 May 3
TO:	Calgary Zone: Physicians, Nurses, and Respiratory Therapists
FROM:	Transfusion Medicine (TM), Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Pretransfusion Testing Specimen Collection Requirements

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Key Message

- Effective **May 10, 2021**, pretransfusion Type and Screen specimen and/or test requests with discrepancies or deficiencies of any type will **not** be accepted when testing is for the purpose of transfusing a patient.
- Patients no longer need to be 14 years or older to self-identify.

How this will impact you

- Any Type and Screen with **any** deficiency will be automatically rejected.
- Transfusion Service Identification Number (TSIN) cards will no longer be returned for missing signatures or to complete the indication of who identified the patient, nor will staff be able to come to the lab to sign.
- TSIN cards indicating that a patient less than 14 years of age has self-identified will be accepted.

Background

- These changes align with the AHS Patient Identification and APL Specimen Acceptance policies.
- Patients are deemed capable of self-identification provided they can say and spell their first and last name and state their birthdate.

Action Required

- Ensure that all specimens for pre-transfusion testing are properly labelled and **all** fields of the TSIN card are complete. Rejected specimens must be recollected in order to provide crossmatched red blood cells.
- Refer to [January 2021 New Transfusion Service Identification Number \(TSIN\) System Lab Bulletin](#) for more information.

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

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