



Date: November 16, 2020
To: Calgary Zone: Inpatient Units, Day Medicine Units, TBCC Outpatient Units
From: Susan Nahirniak, MD, FRCPC Divisional Director / Section Chief, Transfusion Medicine, APL - North & South Sector
Re: Process for Ordering HLA Matched Platelets

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

1. Effective November 16, 2020 TM must be notified when HLA matched/selected platelets are required for patients with HLA Antibodies.
2. Any HLA selected platelets that have been brought into hospital inventories will be released for general use at 10:00am on the date of expiry unless TM is notified that they will be used that day for the patient to which they are matched.

Background:

- TM has been managing ordering platelets from Canadian Blood Services (CBS) for patients that have HLA Antibodies without knowing plans for transfusion. Unfortunately, this lack of information has led to significant inefficiencies in the process and as a result many of these platelets are not ultimately transfused to the patient for which they are ordered, or wasted. This impacts availability of donors for other patients and may reduce availability to have a repeat collection for your sensitized patient.
- Platelets will now be released at 10:00am on the day of expiry unless otherwise instructed by the Most Responsible Healthcare Professional (MRHP).

How This Will Impact You:

- When it is identified that a patient has HLA Antibodies, the MRHP, or their designate, must communicate with Transfusion Medicine to request HLA matched/ selected platelets and organize a plan for estimated frequency and number of doses required. Once that plan has been registered with CBS, appropriate platelets will be brought into hospital inventories following that schedule. TM will communicate with MRHP, or their designate, about dates of availability and expiry of HLA matched platelets.

Action Required:

- Contact TM to inform of transfusion plans and have HLA matched platelets ordered from CBS.
- Contact TM if a platelet transfusion is scheduled for after 1000h so that any HLA selected platelets for that patient will not be released for general use.

Questions/ Concerns may be directed to:

- Joanna McCarthy, Regional Tech III, Transfusion Medicine, 403-944-8466, joanna.mccarthy@aplabs.ca
- Donna Lee-Jones, Tech II Operations, Foothills Medical Centre 403-944-8814, donna.leejones@aplabs.ca
- Susan Nahirniak MD, FRCPC Divisional Director / Section Chief, Transfusion Medicine, APL – North & South Sector 780-407-3426, susan.nahirniak@aplabs.ca

Approved by:

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