ALBERTA PRECISION LABORATORIES
Leaders in Laboratory Medicine

Laboratory Bulletin

DATE:	2021 August 23
TO:	Alberta Physicians and Outpatient / IV Therapy Clinics
FROM:	Transfusion Medicine
RE:	Updated IVIG Resources on AHS Transfusion Medicine Website

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Prescribers of IVIG are expected to:
  - Follow the Prairie Collaborative's Criteria for the Clinical Use of Immune Globulin for approved indications, dosing and duration of therapy.
  - Submit all requests for new patients, and renewal of IVIG orders, using the Provincial IVIG Request Form, or through Connect Care to Transfusion Medicine **prior** to booking the patient for IVIG infusion.
  - Use adjusted body weight (ABW) dosing for overweight or obese adults. Calculators are available on the AHS Transfusion Medicine Website and in Connect Care. These are now aligned to use the same formulas.
  - Use the lowest dose for the shortest duration required to achieve clinical efficacy.

- Resources to support appropriate Intravenous Immune Globulin (IVIG) utilization and dosing have been updated on the AHS Transfusion Medicine Website Immune Globulin (IVIG and SCIG) page, including:
  - Provincial IVIG request form
  - Prairie Collaborative's Criteria for the Clinical Use of Immune Globulin
  - IVIG Dose Calculator based on Adjusted Body Weight (ABW)
  - IVIG Infusion Rate Tables (Adult and Pediatric)

Background

- Due to impending shortages in the global supply of Immune Globulin (Ig) products, several mitigation strategies are required. This includes adherence to the Prairie Collaborative's Criteria for the Clinical Use of Immune Globulin and use of ABW dosing. See the APL Laboratory Bulletin from May 31, 2021 Re: Global Shortage of Intravenous Immunoglobulin.

How this will impact you

- IVIG Dose Calculator on the Transfusion Medicine Website previously used a factor of 0.5 to calculate ABW. This has been adjusted to 0.4 to align with the Connect Care IVIG Dose Calculator.
- In addition, the maximum allowed actual weight has been increased from 200 kg to 400 kg.
- Patients who weigh less than the calculated ideal body weight (IBW) will not have their dose adjusted.

IBW (male) = 50.0 kg + 2.3 kg (each 2.5cm over 150 cm)

IBW (female) = 45.5 kg + 2.3 kg (each 2.5cm over 150 cm)

ABW Dose = IBW + [**0.4** x (Actual Weight – IBW)]

- The calculated ABW will be lower for some patients than the previous calculator, resulting in a lower recommended IVIG dose.

Examples:

Patient			New		Previous	
Gender	**Height**	**Weight**	**ABW**	**2g/kg Dose**	**ABW**	**2g/kg Dose**
Female	160 cm	100 kg	71.4 kg	145g	76.2 kg	152g
Male	175 cm	120kg	90.3 kg	180g	95.3 kg	190g

Action Required

- Effective September 1st, 2021, utilize the new ABW calculator on the AHS Transfusion Medicine Website, or in Connect Care, to determine the appropriate IVIG dose when submitting new requests for IVIG and when reviewing patients currently receiving IVIG treatment.
- Access resources for ordering and infusion of IVIG on the AHS Transfusion Medicine Website – Immune Globulin (IVIG and SCIG) page located at www.ahs.ca/labtransfusion.

Effective

- **Sept 1, 2021**

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

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