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**Date:** June 15, 2020  
**To:** Lethbridge and Area and Medicine Hat and Area Physicians and Nursing staff  
Lethbridge and Area and Medicine Hat and Area Laboratory Staff  
**From:** Transfusion Medicine Laboratory Pathologists, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat  
**Re:** Discontinuation of Concentration of Incompatible Platelets for Patients > 4 Months of Age and Implementation of Platelet Titre testing for ABO Antibodies

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**Key Message:**

- Effective July 1, 2020 CRH Transfusion Medicine will no longer concentrate Platelets to remove incompatible plasma.
- CRH and MHRH Transfusion Medicine will continue to provide ABO compatible platelets whenever possible.
- CRH and MHRH Transfusion Medicine will test Platelet units for high titre Anti-A and/or Anti-B.
  - Those with high titre ABO antibodies will be reserved only for recipients with ABO compatible blood groups.
  - Those with low titre ABO antibodies will be made available for immediate transfusion to all patient ABO blood groups.
- No changes will be made for Neonatal (< 4 months of age) patients. Neonates will continue to receive volume reduced ABO compatible platelets. These units will be available from APL Foothills Transfusion Medicine upon request.
- Adult Patients with fluid restrictions will continue to receive volume reduced ABO compatible platelet units. These units will be available from APL Foothills Transfusion Medicine upon request.

**Why this is important:**

- Testing of titres in Platelet pools and discontinuation of removal of incompatible plasma will standardize practices with APL Calgary Transfusion Medicine services.

**Background:**

- The risk of adverse reactions to platelets with low titre antibodies is extremely low.
- Transfusion of Group O platelets to Group A or B recipients can cause hemolytic reactions that may be prevented by screening to detect those donors who have high titre Anti-A or Anti-B.

**Action Required:**

- Continue to order Platelet components as required.
- Communicate to TM staff when Platelet request is for patients with fluid restrictions or neonatal platelet infusion.

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

- Dr. Barbara Popma, Transfusion Medicine Pathologist, Chinook Regional Hospital, 403-388-6153
- Dr. Spencer Paulson, Transfusion Medicine Pathologist, Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, 403-528-8149

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

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