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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 Cryoprecipitate Pooling by Transfusion Medicine staff

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Message:

- Effective July 1, 2020 Cryoprecipitate will no longer be pooled by Transfusion Medicine staff at Chinook Regional Hospital and Medicine Hat Regional Hospital.

### Why this is important:

- Fibrinogen Concentrate (FC) and Tranexamic Acid are the Transfusion Medicine recommended products. The majority of patients only require fibrinogen replacement rather than the multiple coagulation factors provided by Cryoprecipitate.
- Should Cryoprecipitate be recommended, it will be received at the patient location in individual bags of 5-15 mL. The ordered dose of Cryoprecipitate will determine the number of bags received.

### Background:

- Review of Cryoprecipitate order requests by Transfusion Medicine starting July 1, 2020 along with recommendation of Fibrinogen Concentrate (FC) when indicated will standardize processes with APL Calgary Transfusion Medicine.

### Action Required:

- Should Cryoprecipitate be required for a patient, it is recommended that during transfusion the programmed IV pump volume doubles that of each individual cryoprecipitate bag volume. This will ensure adequate suction to empty the cryoprecipitate bag (see attached poster for instructions).
- The attached poster will accompany all units of cryoprecipitate dispensed from Transfusion Medicine.

### 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
- Bailey Blake, South Zone Transfusion Safety Officer, 403-388-6054
- Cathy Davies, Tech III Transfusion Medicine, Chinook Regional Hospital, 587-787-1341
- Karen Blasetti, Tech II Transfusion Medicine, Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, 403-504-8648 ext. 2279

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

- Michael Greeff, MD, Regional Laboratory Medicine Site Chief, Chinook Regional Hospital
- Julio Silva, MD, Regional Laboratory Medicine Site Chief, Medicine Hat Regional Hospital



Picture 1

**To Administer:**

- 1 Check each individual unit and initial as per policy prior to being hung. Once checked, hang all bags on the IV pole. (See picture 1).
- 2 Starting with the first bag, spike into an available port.
- 3 **Program the IV pump for double the volume of each cryoprecipitate bag.** (E.g. if the cryoprecipitate bag volume is 10 mL, program the IV pump for 20 mL. During simulation, this step ensured adequate suction to completely empty each bag). Begin transfusion.
- 4 Continue this process for each bag.
- 5 Once all bags have been transfused, **flush the line with saline.** This ensures that all of the cryoprecipitate gets to the patient. (See picture 2).

**Note:** Cryoprecipitate is stored at room temperature and is good for 4 hours once it has been thawed



Picture 2



**\*Saline flush MUST be done in order to remove all of the cryoprecipitate from the line\***