



Date: June 15, 2020
To: South Health Campus (SHC) ER: Physicians, Nursing Unit Managers, Nursing Staff and SHC Porters
From: Dr. Davinder Sidhu, Section Chief, Transfusion Medicine (TM), South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
Re: Unmatched Blood Refrigerator at SHC ER

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective **June 15, 2020**, the Unmatched Blood Refrigerator will no longer be used to stock blood in the Emergency Department at SHC.

Background:

- This change is being implemented in response to a Health Canada citation for failing to adequately track and monitor blood products and components in and out of satellite refrigerators.
- Current blood storage refrigerators external to TM departments are being eliminated due to these Health Canada requirements.

Action Required:

- Unmatched Red Blood Cells (RBCs) will be prepared and stored in TM and transported via pneumatic tube system (PTS) upon request.
- Call **6-1344** to request unmatched RBC.
- When more than 2 RBC are required, request that TM transport 2 RBC via PTS, followed by subsequent RBC in a cooler, or MTP transported via portering.
- RBCs that will not be transfused **must** be returned within 60 minutes to TM.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Joanna McCarthy, Regional Tech III APL Transfusion Medicine 403-944-8466, joanna.mccarthy@aplabs.ca
- Nicole Gettle, Calgary Transfusion Safety Leader (Interim), 403-944-6399, Nicole.Gettle@aplabs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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- Leland Baskin, MD, Associate Medical Director, South Sector