

Date: February 22, 2016
To: UAH Unit Managers
From: Edmonton Zone Transfusion Service
Re: Blood Component and Product Transport Education

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Effective March 1, 2016, Blood Bank staff will be checking for presence of the 'Blood Droplet' sticker from authorized staff members picking up blood components and product. Presence of the 'Blood Droplet' sticker indicates that the staff member has received educational information on blood component and product handling.
- 'Pre-distribution' of the educational information sheet and sticker is underway for 'high-use' patient care units. Blood components and products will still be issued without delay. Educational information sheets and stickers will be available at the Blood Bank at the time of blood component or product pick-up for staff who do not present a sticker.
- Signed educational information sheets should be kept with the staff member's personnel file.
- A new sticker is required at the beginning of each calendar year.
- Only the sticker is required for Nursing staff if they have documented annual transfusion education (on-line modules, or equivalent). They do not need to complete the educational information sheet.

Why this is important:

- Transfusion Medicine standards that dictate the Edmonton Zone Transfusion Service practice (CPSA standard TM.1.2.4, CSA standard 4.3.6.2, CSTM standard 2.14) require formal competency assessment of staff involved in any transfusion activity.
- Deficiencies were cited for these standards during previous accreditation inspections, particularly with regards to handling and transport of blood components and products from the Blood Bank to patient care areas.

Action Required:

- Keep signed educational information sheets with the staff member's personnel file.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Site Blood Bank supervisory staff
- Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Medical Director, Transfusion Medicine
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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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