



Date: February 24, 2020
To: Canadian Surgical Solutions (CSS) – Physicians, Nursing Unit Managers, Nursing Staff
From: Dr. Davinder Sidhu, Section Chief, Transfusion Medicine, South Sector, APL
Re: Blood Storage Refrigerator at CSS

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective **February 24, 2020**, the blood storage refrigerator will no longer be used at the CSS.

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.

Action Required:

- Red Blood Cells (RBCs) will be transported to CSS upon faxed request on the morning of the surgical procedure.
- RBCs will be transported in sealed blood transport boxes which must remain sealed until ready for transfusion.
- RBCs must be fully infused within 4 hours of removal from the blood transport box.
- RBCs not used **must** be returned to Transfusion Medicine at Foothills Medical Centre within 24 hours of the time issued.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Davinder Sidhu, MD, FRCPC, Section Chief, Transfusion Medicine, South Sector
Leland Baskin, MD, FCAP, FAACC, Associate Medical Director, South Sector