



**Date:** February 24, 2020  
**To:** Foothills Medical Center (FMC) Unit 57A – SSB Physicians, SSB Nursing Unit Managers, SBB Nursing Staff, Portering  
**From:** Dr. Davinder Sidhu, Section Chief, Transfusion Medicine, South Sector, APL  
**Re:** Blood Storage Refrigerator at FMC Unit 57A

---

**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

---

**Key Message:**

- Effective **March 9, 2020**, the blood storage refrigerator will no longer be used at FMC Unit 57A.

**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) should be ordered routine and dispensed “on demand” when ready to begin the infusion.
- RBCs will be dispensed one unit at a time and must be fully infused within 4 hours.
- RBCs not used **must** be returned within 60 minutes to Transfusion Medicine at FMC. .

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

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