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
- Nicole Gettle, Calgary Transfusion Safety Leader (Interim), 403-944-6399, Nicole.Gettle@albertapubliclabs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:
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