



**Date:** February 10, 2020  
**To:** Tom Baker Cancer Centre (TBCC): Physicians, Nursing Unit Managers, Nursing Staff, and Portering Staff  
**From:** Dr. Davinder Sidhu, Section Chief, Transfusion Medicine, South Sector  
**Re:** Blood Storage Refrigerator at TBCC

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**Key Message:**

- Effective **February 10, 2020**, the blood storage refrigerator will no longer be used at the TBCC.

**Background:**

- This change is being implemented in response to a Health Canada citation for failing to adequately track and monitor the transfer of blood products and components in and out of satellite refrigerators.

**Action Required:**

- Red Blood Cells (RBCs) will be 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 to Transfusion Medicine within 60 minutes.
- No changes will be made to the dispense process for other blood components or products.

**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