

**Date:** October 23, 2017  
**To:** All Zones, Physicians and Nurses  
**From:** AHS Laboratory Services  
**Re:** Change in Availability of CMV Seronegative Blood Components

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

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**Key Message:**

- Effective October 23, 2017, Cytomegalovirus (CMV) seronegative products will only be available for intrauterine transfusion.
- Canadian Blood Services will no longer be testing donor blood for anti-CMV antibodies, except for a small inventory of blood components for the sole use in intrauterine transfusion. As a result, all hospital orders and/or orders for patients with indications other than intrauterine transfusion, will be filled with CMV-safe (pre-storage leukoreduced) components.

**Background:**

- This change is based on the National Advisory Committee (NAC) on Blood and Blood Products recommendations regarding the use of CMV seronegative blood products.

**Why this is important:**

- The seven hospitals in Canada that perform intrauterine transfusions are the only facilities where CMV seronegative units will be routinely stocked in limited numbers.

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

- [transfusion.safetyteam@ahs.ca](mailto:transfusion.safetyteam@ahs.ca), by telephone to Trevor Richardson at 780-342-8266, or your local Transfusion Safety Coordinator/Officer

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

**Transfusion Medicine Network Co-chairs**

- Leland Baskin, MD, MS, FCAP, FACB, VP Medical Operations, Deputy Medical Director, Calgary Laboratory Services and Trevor Richardson BSc(MLS), PMP, CSSGB, CM(Prosci)