

**Date:** December 13, 2016  
**To:** CRH Physicians, Nurses, Unit Clerks, Transfusion Medicine Laboratory Staff  
**From:** AHS Laboratory Services  
**Re:** Discontinuation of Blood Component Washing and Pooling

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### Key Messages:

- Currently Chinook Regional Hospital (CRH) Transfusion Medicine performs Blood Component transformation ie. Washing Red Blood Cells (RBC) and Platelet Components and pooling washed RBC and Plasma for Exchange Transfusion.
- As of October 23, 2014 such Component transformations require Health Canada Registration and Licensing. As well, Health Canada compliance requires mandatory audits of processes as well as proof of competency for all staff performing these transformations.
- The frequency of requests for Washed and Pooled Components has declined substantially over the past 5 years making competency difficult to maintain.

**Effective January 1/2017 CHR Transfusion Medicine will be discontinuing Blood Component transformation.**

**These Components will be supplied by Foothills Transfusion Medicine or Canadian Blood Services (CBS).**

### Why this is important:

- Component transformations happen very infrequently and as a result Transfusion Medicine Staff are struggling to maintain competency.
- Health Canada compliance is making it difficult for smaller Transfusion Medicine labs to maintain the process of transforming Blood Components.

### Action Required:

- The process for ordering Washed Components or Pooled Washed RBC and Plasma for Exchange Transfusion has not changed; only the site who prepares them will change.
- Deliveries to CRH will be via STAT cab with total time taking approximately 4-7 hours from time of request. Time will vary depending on the Component transformation requested.

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Cathy Davies – CRH Hematology/Transfusion Medicine Tech III @ 403-388-6106
- Kelsey Jakobsen – Transfusion Safety Tech II, South Zone @ 403-388-6054
- Dr. David Lyon – Transfusion Medicine Pathologist @ 403-388-6151

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

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