



Date: June 29, 2020
To: South Health Campus (SHC) Day Medicine Physicians, Unit Managers and Nursing Staff, and SHC Porters
From: Dr. Davinder Sidhu, Section Chief, Transfusion Medicine, South Sector
Re: Discontinuation of Blood Storage Refrigerator at SHC Day Medicine

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective **June 29, 2020**, the Blood Refrigerator will no longer be used to store Red Blood Cells (RBCs) in the Day Medicine Department at SHC.

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.
- Current blood storage refrigerators external to TM departments are being eliminated due to these Health Canada requirements.

Action Required:

- RBCs will be dispensed “on demand” when ready to begin the infusion.
- RBCs will be dispensed one unit at a time, and **must** be returned to Transfusion Medicine within 60 minutes if they will not be used.
- RBCs must be fully infused within 4 hours of dispense from Transfusion Medicine.
- 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@aplabs.ca
- Nicole Gettle, Calgary Transfusion Safety Leader (Interim), 403-944-6399, Nicole.Gettle@aplabs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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- Leland Baskin, MD, Associate Medical Director, South Sector