Alberta Public Laboratories (APL)

Laboratory Bulletin

Date: **April 22, 2019**
To: **Calgary Zone Acute Care Physicians, Unit Managers, and Nursing staff**
From: **Dr. Davinder Sidhu, Clinical Section Chief, Transfusion Medicine**
Re: **Discontinuation of Cryoprecipitate Pooling by Alberta Public Laboratories staff**

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective May 2, 2019, cryoprecipitate will no longer be pooled by transfusion medicine staff for patients at any acute care sites in the Calgary Zone.

Why this is important:

- Fibrinogen Concentrate and Tranexamic Acid are the Transfusion Medicine recommended products for patients.
- Should cryoprecipitate be deemed necessary, it will come in individual bags of 5-15 mL that will need to be pooled together. The ordered dose will determine the number of bags received.

Background:

- Cryoprecipitate screening implemented by Transfusion Medicine in July 2016 coupled with the efficacy of using Tranexamic Acid and Fibrinogen Concentrate has drastically reduced the usage of cryoprecipitate.
- The majority of patients only require fibrinogen replacement rather than the multiple coagulation factors provided by cryoprecipitate.

Action Required:

- Should cryoprecipitate be required for any patient, it is recommended that during transfusion the programmed IV pump volume doubles that of each individual cryoprecipitate bag volume. During in-house simulation, this step ensured adequate suction to empty the cryoprecipitate bag (see attached instructions). The attached poster will accompany all units of cryoprecipitate dispensed from Transfusion Medicine.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Tara Redfern, Calgary Transfusion Safety Leader, 403-944-1900, Tara-Lyn.Redfern@albertapubliclabs.ca
- Kelsey Barnum, Calgary Transfusion Safety Leader (Interim), 403-944-5831, Kelsey.Barnum@albertapubliclabs.ca
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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Leland Baskin, Associate Medical Director, South Sector

Transfusion of Cryoprecipitate

Laboratory staff do not pool cryoprecipitate.

Thawed bags (units) reflective of the dosage ordered will be dispensed from the Transfusion Medicine laboratory.

To Administer:

1. Check each individual unit and initial as per policy prior to being hung. Once checked, hang all bags on the IV pole. (See picture 1).
2. Starting with the first bag, spike into an available port.
3. **Program the IV pump for double the volume of each cryoprecipitate bag**. (E.g. if the cryoprecipitate bag volume is 10 mL, program the IV pump for 20 mL. During simulation, this step ensured adequate suction to completely empty each bag). Begin transfusion.
4. Continue this process for each bag.
5. Once all bags have been transfused, **flush the line with saline**. This ensures that all of the cryoprecipitate gets to the patient. (See picture 2).

Note: Cryoprecipitate is stored at room temperature and is good for 4 hours once it has been thawed.

Picture 1:

Picture 2:

Saline flush MUST be done in order to remove all of the cryoprecipitate from the line