



Date: December 2, 2019
To: FMC ORs – Surgeons, Anesthesiologists, OR Nursing Unit Managers, Portering
From: Dr. Davinder Sidhu, Section Chief, Transfusion Medicine, APL
Re: Red Blood Cell Delivery to McCaig ORs via the Pneumatic Tube System

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective **November 18, 2019**, Transfusion Medicine (TM) will begin delivery of Red Blood Cells (RBCs) to McCaig ORs via the Pneumatic Tube System (PTS) for immediate use. Prepared RBCs will be stored in TM instead of in the OR Blood refrigerator.

Background:

- 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.

Action Required:

- **Surgeons and/or Anesthesiologists**
 - Order Type and Screen and RBCs as per usual practice.
 - RBCs will be prepared and stored in the TM refrigerator until requested.
- **Nursing staff**
 - Pre-operatively in SCM, dispense *On Standby RBCs* or order *OR Only RBCs* as per usual practice. Indicate which theatre the patient is in SCM, in “Additional Information to TM” when dispensing.
 - Call TM at 4-1367 when the need for transfusion arises. RBCs will be sent immediately via PTS. Up to 2 RBC units can be sent via each carrier.
 - Retrieve RBCs from the PTS carrier and promptly return the empty carrier to TM – PTS Station 70.
 - On average, delivery should occur within 3-5 minutes.

Additional Information:

- For cases requiring multiple blood products and components, or deemed to be high risk, blood products and components can be sent to the OR and stored in TM validated blood boxes. Boxes will be sealed and are not to be opened until the blood will be transfused.
- Any unused products must be returned to TM via portering, not the PTS.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Joanna McCarthy, Regional Tech III APL Transfusion Medicine 403-944-8466
joanna.mccarthy@albertapubliclabs.ca
- Nicole Gettle, Calgary Transfusion Safety Leader (Interim), 403-944-6399,
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