

**Date:** October 5, 2015  
**To:** South Zone West Physicians, Nursing, Unit Clerks  
**From:** AHS Laboratory Services  
**Re:** Removal of 2 Unit Default for Ordering RBC in Meditech

## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

### Key Messages:

- Effective October 19, 2015, when ordering Red Blood Cells in Meditech, the Quantity field will no longer default to 2 units.
- The Quantity field will be blank and must be completed with the number of units to be transfused.
- Meditech will not allow the Quantity field to be bypassed. Attempting to do so will result in the error message "1 required field is missing in this row"

	Category	* Procedure	Procedure Name	* Priority	* Quantity	* Date	Time	Series
1	BBK	RBC	RED BLOOD CELLS LR	R		T+		
2								
3								
4								

Default of "2" is removed.  
 Enter the number of units to  
 be transfused.

### Why this is important:

- The frequency of single unit RBC transfusions is increasing in our zone, in line with Choosing Wisely Canada guidelines and transfusion best practice.
- Removal of the 2 unit default will help ensure that only the quantity of RBC units required for transfusion are ordered, which supports better management of our local blood supply.

### Action Required:

- When ordering Red Blood Cells in Meditech, enter the number of units required for transfusion in the Quantity field
- Do not order more units than will be transfused. Additional units may be requested at a later time using the "Add Units" routine.

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Konra Mueller, Transfusion Safety Tech II, South Zone
- Cathy Davies, Transfusion Medicine Tech III, South Zone West
- Dr. David Lyon, Transfusion Medicine Pathologist, South Zone

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

- Dr. Michael Greeff, AHS Zone Clinical Department Head (Co-Lead) Laboratory Medicine, South Zone
- Shelley Duncan, CRH Laboratory Manager
- Dorothy Ward, South Zone Laboratory Director