Date: January 13, 2020
To: South Zone Nursing Staff (Medicine Hat and Area, Lethbridge and Area)
    South Zone Laboratory Staff (Medicine Hat and Area, Lethbridge and Area)
From: Transfusion Medicine Safety – Karen Blasetti South Zone TSO
Re: The Training of Handling Blood Components and Products for Transfusion Medicine

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

• Effective January 1, 2020, the laboratory has developed a program for health care professionals
  who handle blood components and products with basic knowledge on the handling, from picking-
  up to the transportation to care area.
• Initial and annual training is required for all health care professionals handling blood components
  and products.

Why this is important:

• To ensure blood products and components are safely transported to the care area of the patient
  before administration.

Action Required:

• When a health care professionals report to the Laboratory to pick up blood components or
  products for the first time of the new calendar year, the laboratory staff will provide the External
  Resource: The Handing of Blood Components and Products and a sticker of a blood drop labeled
  with the current year and colour.
• Health care professionals are required to read and sign the resource and place the blood drop
  sticker on their identification tag.
• Laboratory will use the sticker as visual indicator that health care professionals have been trained
  on handing blood components and products for the calendar year.
• Health care professionals are required to retain the signed external resource document for training
  records. It is not to be given back to the Laboratory.
• Health care professionals are to speak with the onsite nursing manager or onsite laboratory staff if
  there are questions.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

• Karen Blasetti – South Zone Transfusion Safety Officer, Karen.Blasetti@aplabs.ca
  403 502 8648 ext. 2272

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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