

Date: December 22, 2016
To: Clinical Nurse Educators- North Zone (former Peace Country and Aspen sites)
Nurse Managers- North Zone (former Peace Country and Aspen sites)
From: AHS Laboratory Services
Re: Transfusion Reaction Investigation Changes

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- Changes to North Zone reporting of Transfusion Reactions have been made to standardize our processes. These changes only apply to the Meditech HCIS sites.
- Effective January 5, 2017 Transfusion Reaction Investigations must be order entered in Meditech using the code TRRXN or TRRXNRO by nursing staff suspecting a possible transfusion reaction.
- The order entry will now include fields for nursing staff to document clinical symptoms and vital signs. It will also require an attestation that the nursing staff have performed the clerical check to confirm the correct patient is being transfused with the correct blood component/product.
- In the event that the suspected transfusion reaction features only hives and urticaria covering less than 2/3 of the body, the attending physician may approve continuation of the transfusion but a transfusion reaction must still be ordered for lab to follow-up.
- Transfusion Reaction information is currently on the Transfusion Medicine Website:
 - <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/lab/page10380.aspx>
 - [Signs and Symptoms of a Transfusion Reaction](#)
 - [Acute Transfusion Reaction Chart](#)
- Contact the Transfusion Safety Officer, Astrid Maguire for questions and inquiries.

Why this is important:

- This is important for patient safety to ensure that any transfusion reaction reported is followed up appropriately and addresses any modifications required for future transfusions.

Action Required:

- Nursing must be made aware of the need to order enter Transfusion Reaction Investigations in Meditech Order Entry module.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Astrid Maguire, Transfusion Safety Officer - North Zone, astrid.maguire@ahs.ca, phone: 780-350-3071, cell: 780-206-5592.

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Deputy Zone Clinical Department Head, Diagnostic Health - Laboratory & Pathology, North Zone - AHS Laboratory Services