



# Memorandum

**Date:** June 16, 2016  
**To:** NICU South Health Campus  
**From:** Dr. Davinder Sidhu, Transfusion Medicine Clinical Consultant  
**Re:** **Cessation of Washing Red Cells at South Health Campus (SHC)**

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**Key Messages:**

- Effective immediately, SHC Transfusion Medicine (TM) will no longer be preparing washed red cells on site.
- Washed red cells will be obtained from Foothills Medical Centre (FMC) TM when required.

**Importance:**

- Minor delays may be experienced when washed cells are ordered.
- An unwashed unit of O Neg CMV negative irradiated red cells will be maintained on site in case of urgent need.

**Background:**

- Washed red cells are infrequently ordered at SHC.
- Health Canada now requires registration for any site that performs this type of component manipulation, necessitating a rigorous inspection process of all registered sites. A decision was made by CLS operations management, in conjunction with medical, to discontinue washing red cell and platelet components at SHC.

**Action Required:**

- No change in practice is required by the ordering physician or patient care staff.
- Orders for washed component will be received by the lab at SHC and forwarded to FMC TM as required.

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

Dr. Davinder Sidhu, TM Clinical Consultant at 403-770-3808

**This memorandum has been reviewed and approved by:**

Dr. Ethan Flynn, Clinical Section Chief, General Pathology