



# Memorandum

**Date:** May 24, 2016  
**To:** Physicians Ordering Blood Products  
**From:** Dr. Leland Baskin, VP Medical Operations, Calgary Laboratory Services (CLS)  
**Re:** **Discontinuation of National Blood Shortage Advisory**

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**Key Message:**

- Canadian Blood Services has discontinued its recent GREEN ADVISORY contingency activation for the National Plan for Management of Blood and Blood Product Shortages with respect to group O (Rh positive and negative) red cells only.
- All hospitals in Alberta have returned to normal inventory levels for group O red cells.

**Importance:**

- Standard blood conservation strategies and practices are in effect.

**Action Required:**

- Please continue to ensure pre-transfusion testing is collected as soon as possible. Early determination of patient ABO blood group is always helpful for timely dispensing of group-specific blood components and to conserve group O red cells.
- For best conservation practices in Transfusion Medicine *Choosing Wisely Canada* recommends:
  1. Don't transfuse blood if other non-transfusion therapies or observation would be just as effective.
  2. Don't transfuse more than one red cell unit at a time when transfusion is required in stable, non-bleeding patients.

To review the rest of *Choosing Wisely Canada* Transfusion Medicine recommendations visit <http://www.choosingwiselycanada.org/recommendations/transfusion-medicine/>

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

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

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