



# Memorandum

**Date:** Oct 1, 2015

**To:** Hematology physicians

**From:** Dr. Shabani-Rad, Clinical Section Chief Hematology  
Dr. Leland Baskin, Clinical Section Chief Transfusion Medicine

**Re:** **Ordering Fresh Red Cells**

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**Key Messages:**

Effective Oct 8, 2015, Transfusion Medicine will begin matching fresh red cells that are **less than 10 days old** for chronically transfused patients with hereditary anemia.

**Importance/Impact:**

Due to the challenges in supplying fresh red cells for chronically transfused patients, Canadian Blood Services and Transfusion Medicine have determined that a change to "less than 10 days old" red cells from "less than 7 days old" will improve access to red cell inventory and decrease delays in transfusion.

**Background:**

Increasing demand, coupled with a decreasing blood donor base, is making it difficult for Canadian Blood Services to consistently supply blood less than 7 days old. The Calgary Center Canadian Blood Services has recommended that CLS Transfusion Medicine adopt a practice similar to British Columbia and Ontario in which the maximum age of red cells for these patients is 14 days old. This change has been approved by the Calgary Zone Transfusion Committee.

**Action Required:**

- Please modify your red cell ordering practice to reflect this change.
- Instructions to nursing staff should indicate "transfuse red cells as fresh as possible" instead of "less than 7 days old".
- If you have an SCM order set that has "less than 7 days" pre-populated in the *Instructions to TM* field please have it modified.

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

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

Dr. Leland Baskin, MD, FCAP, Medical Director, VP Medical Operations