



# Memorandum

**Date:** January 14, 2015

**To:** All Patient Care Units, Calgary Acute Care Sites

**From:** Julia Hendry, Acting Supervisor, CLS Transfusion Medicine

**Re:** Return and Reuse of Blood Delivery Bags

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**Key Messages:** Please follow these procedures for handling and return of blood delivery bags

- Dispose of bags that are visibly soiled, damaged or significantly worn
- Ensure good hand hygiene practices when handling bags
- Empty bags at the nursing station, do not take them into patient rooms or place in approved blood storage refrigerators
- Create a location for collection of the bags and return them to the laboratory regularly (daily or at least weekly for low use areas)
- Do not call portering just to return the empty bags, they can be returned when sending specimens to the lab with porters or lab collectors, via pneumatic tube or interoffice mail.

**Importance/Impact:** Following these procedures will eliminate any negative impact on portering workload and balance our desire for environmental and fiscal responsibility with patient safety concerns.

**Background / Action Required:** The Infection Prevention and Control and Distribution departments were consulted to develop these processes.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to: Julia Hendry at 403-944-4467 or [julia.hendry@cls.ab.ca](mailto:julia.hendry@cls.ab.ca)

This memorandum has been reviewed and approved by: Dr. Meer-Taher Shabani-Rad, Clinical Section Chief, Hematology and Transfusion Medicine