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March 19, 2020

Re: March 17, 2020 Green Phase Advisory from the National Emergency Blood Management Committee – Impact of COVID-19

Dear Hospital Colleagues,

On March 17, 2020 a Green Phase Advisory for all fresh blood components and plasma protein products from the National Emergency Blood Management Committee was sent to your hospital highlighting Canadian Blood Services predicting the potential for shortages due to a significant number of collections cancellations.

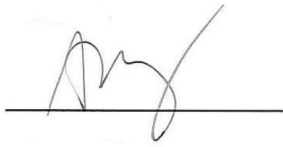
Members of the Ontario Emergency Blood Management Committee met on March 18, 2020 and there is consensus from the Committee in advising hospitals to:

- review your own Hospital Emergency Blood Management Plan to ensure your contact lists are up to date and be prepared to activate it should supply levels move to the next blood shortage phase;
- follow current best practices for red blood cell and platelet transfusions as recommended in the attached poster, *Prevent blood shortages during COVID-19: YOU can make a difference*;
- use Fibrinogen Concentrate, not cryoprecipitate, to replace fibrinogen in bleeding patients (this will allow Canadian Blood Services to focus efforts on production of platelets);
- ensure your transfusion medicine laboratory reports their red blood cell and platelet inventory to Canadian Blood Services daily as outlined in the Green Phase Advisory;
- continue to redistribute blood components and products in order to minimize waste and preserve inventory; and
- review and share the attached checklist provided by the National Emergency Blood Management Committee.

Note: The Ontario Contingency Plan for the Management of Blood Shortages and Toolkit can be found on the Ontario Regional Blood Coordinating Network (ORBCoN) website, https://transfusionontario.org/en/documents/?cat=emergency_blood.

Our goal in these efforts is to conserve blood and blood products for those most in need in light of the many efforts Canadian Blood Services is taking to mitigate against the pressures COVID-19 could have on the blood supply, along with the efforts being taken within our hospitals to respond to the rapidly changing situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angie Wong', is written over a solid horizontal line.

Angie Wong
Director, Drug Programs Policy and Strategy

Attachments

c: Patrick Dicerni, Assistant Deputy Minister, Drugs and Devices Division, Ministry of Health
Ontario Emergency Blood Management Committee Members

