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May 14, 2020

Re: May 6th, 2020 Recovery Phase Advisory for All Fresh Blood Components and Plasma Protein Products from the National Emergency Blood Management Committee

Dear Hospital Colleagues,

On behalf of the Ministry and the Ontario Emergency Blood Management Committee, I would like to thank all of the dedicated staff and clinicians across hospitals for following the National Emergency Blood Management Committee's guidance since the first Green Phase Advisory that was issued on March 17th, 2020. Collectively, Ontario transfusion medicine laboratories and clinicians have effectively managed provincial inventory demand in these challenging times by following appropriate transfusion guidelines.

On May 6th, 2020 the National Emergency Blood Management Committee issued the attached Recovery Phase Advisory for all fresh blood components and plasma protein products to your hospital transfusion medicine laboratory, which indicates a period of controlled transition to normal demand within hospitals. Although inventory of all blood components and products are at Green Phase levels and sufficient to meet current hospital demand, decreased donations and imminent potential increase in demand for blood components triggered by returning to the baseline volumes of operations will continue to affect blood supply planning at the Canadian Blood Services. Hence both the Canadian Blood Services and the Ministry are going to continue to closely monitor blood inventories and changes in hospital activity.

The Recovery Phase Advisory outlines hospital actions required for a controlled transition to normal, including continuation of daily inventory reporting of red blood cells and platelets to the Canadian Blood Services for ongoing monitoring of national blood supply.

In addition, we would like to highlight two hospital actions that are important for a smooth transition to normal operations of the blood system and transfusion services.

- Over the past several weeks, demand for red blood cells has decreased by approximately 20 percent and hospital transfusion medicine laboratories reduced their on-site inventory in response. In order to prevent blood supply shortages, the transfusion medicine laboratory at your hospital has been asked to provide updates to the Canadian Blood Services to inform production plans. We strongly encourage you to keep your transfusion medicine laboratory Medical Director and Manager informed about any increased or changing activity that could have an impact on the need for blood at your hospital as you begin to gradually re-start elective surgery and reopen clinics.
- As your hospital is ramping up elective surgeries, we encourage you to practice patient blood management to reduce unnecessary blood transfusions and help manage increasing demand for red blood cells. Patient Blood Management Toolkit for Hospital is available online at <https://www.ontracprogram.com/Public.aspx>.

This continues to be a dynamic situation with limited ability to predict what will happen in the weeks and months to come. We will continue to update you with the most current direction or advice from the National and Ontario Emergency Blood Management Committees and help support hospitals in making decisions which may affect blood supply.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Thomas Smith, Team Lead, Drugs Programs Policy and Strategy at Thomas.Smith@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



Angie Wong
Director, Drug Programs Policy and Strategy

Attachment

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