

<b>DATE:</b>	30 March 2026
<b>TO:</b>	All Connect Care Users
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories, Transfusion & Transplantation Medicine
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Eligibility for 30-Day Pre-Surgical Type and Screen Extension</b>

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Message

- If a type and screen (T&S) is indicated for an outpatient awaiting a surgical procedure, testing should be completed prior to the day of the procedure to avoid delays in blood availability. The Transfusion Medicine lab has experienced a high volume of patients who do not have valid T&S testing on the day of their procedure with the testing being collected too early for patients who do not qualify for extended pretransfusion testing validity.
- Transfusion Medicine staff may manually extend the expiration date of T&S pretransfusion testing to 30 days **only** for outpatients who:
  - Have not been pregnant within the past 3 months (90 days)
  - Have not been transfused with any blood product containing red blood cells within the past 3 months (90 days)

### Background

- Patients who have been transfused or pregnant within the last 90 days are at risk of developing new red cell alloantibodies. These antibodies may not yet be detectable at the time of the initial T&S. Extending the T&S expiry in these cases risks missing clinically significant antibodies that could cause transfusion reactions and complicate transfusion support.
- If a T&S request does not confirm eligibility or if laboratory staff discover on history check that a patient was transfused or pregnant within 90 days, the specimen will be kept at the standard 96-hour expiry. Work is underway to automatically integrate EMR data of transfusion and pregnancy history within Alberta.
- Any patient with an extended T&S who is transfused within the 30-day extension window, will have their T&S revert back to 96 hours from the time of issue of the blood component.

### Action Required

- Ordering providers must confirm transfusion and pregnancy history at the time of placing the order for a type and screen if an extension is being requested using the following Connect Care order questions.
  - Is this a future scheduled pre-operative patient testing order?
    - “Yes” is a request for outpatient pre-surgical T&S extension (30-day expiry)
    - “No” should be used for all inpatient and non-surgical T&S requests (96-hour expiry)
  - “Has the patient been pregnant in the last 90 days?” / “Has the patient been transfused outside Alberta in the last 90 days?”



- For patients where the answer would be yes or have unknown histories the patient should be instructed to have their collection done 24-48 hours prior to the procedure.
- If they had an extension and the surgical procedure is subsequently cancelled or postponed but the new date is expected within the original 30-day T&S expiry; the patient must be instructed to keep their TSIN band attached to maintain a valid T&S. If the new date will occur after the T&S expiry, a new T&S will need to be ordered and collected.

**Effective**

- Immediately – this is a reminder of current policy and process

**Questions/Concerns**

- Dr. Joshua Nicholas at [Joshua.nicholas@ahs.ca](mailto:Joshua.nicholas@ahs.ca)

**Approved by**

- Dr. Susan Nahirniak, Medical Director, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine