

DATE:	25 May 2026
TO:	Chinook Regional Hospital, Physicians and Nursing Staff
FROM:	APL Transfusion Medicine
RE:	New Blood Component Transport Containers

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Key Message

- Alberta Precision Laboratories' (APL) Transfusion Medicine (TM) Service will be implementing new intrahospital storage containers for out-of-lab storage of blood components in Massive Hemorrhage Protocols (MHPs) kits and approved Blood in Box (BIB) requests.

Background

- APL is standardizing storage containers used within hospitals to ensure blood components are kept at the required temperature during out of lab storage. If required for patient support, these new containers have been permitted for use in operating room theatres by Infection, Prevention and Control.

Action Required

- When activating an [MHP](#) or requesting BIB, be aware the blood components will be arriving in the new storage containers. *Note containers will be visually differentiated based on the request for MHP vs BIB*
See pictures below.
- Do NOT add blood components issued separately to the storage container.
- Do NOT merge blood components from other containers into one for ease of transport.
- Return storage containers to the Transfusion Medicine Service in a timely manner when no longer required.
- Phase Change Materials are used to form chambers that keep blood components at the required storage temperatures. These materials require time to recharge before they can be reused, so timely return of storage containers and their contents when no longer required will ensure that support can be provided to subsequent patients.
 - Red Blood Cells (RBC) and Plasma units will be placed within the chambers, or around the sides/top of the chambers within the storage container.
 - If a platelet unit is being provided for a MHP, it will be placed in the external pouch located on front of the container, labelled PLATELET.
 - Ensure platelets are not added inside the chamber or cooler, as platelets must remain at room temperature.



Cooler and Phase
change materials



Chamber within cooler (lid
open) containing RBC



Plasma on top of
chamber lid



Platelet Pouch



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Effective June 1, 2026

Questions/Concerns

- Kelsey Jakobsen, South Zone Transfusion Safety Officer

Approved by

- Dr Susan Nahirniak, Medical Director, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program
- Dr Davinder Sidhu, Medical Lead, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine
- April Hillman, Manager, APL Transfusion and Transplantation Medicine Program