



Date: January 13, 2020
To: South Zone Nursing Staff (Medicine Hat and Area, Lethbridge and Area)
South Zone Laboratory Staff (Medicine Hat and Area, Lethbridge and Area)
From: Transfusion Medicine Safety – Karen Blasetti South Zone TSO
Re: The Training of Handling Blood Components and Products for Transfusion Medicine

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective January 1, 2020, the laboratory has developed a program for health care professionals who handle blood components and products with basic knowledge on the handling, from picking-up to the transportation to care area.
- Initial and annual training is required for all health care professionals handling blood components and products.

Why this is important:

- To ensure blood products and components are safely transported to the care area of the patient before administration.

Action Required:

- When a health care professionals report to the Laboratory to pick up blood components or products for the first time of the new calendar year, the laboratory staff will provide the *External Resource: The Handling of Blood Components and Products* and a sticker of a blood drop labeled with the current year and colour.
- Health care professionals are required to read and sign the resource and place the blood drop sticker on their identification tag.
- Laboratory will use the sticker as visual indicator that health care professionals have been trained on handling blood components and products for the calendar year.
- Health care professionals are required to retain the signed external resource document for training records. It is **not** to be given back to the Laboratory.
- Health care professionals are to speak with the onsite nursing manager or onsite laboratory staff if there are questions.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Karen Blasetti – South Zone Transfusion Safety Officer, Karen.Blasetti@aplabs.ca
403 502 8648 ext. 2272

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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