Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Central Zone Physicians, Health Service Directors

From: Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Transfusion Medicine

Date: October 9, 2019

Subject: 2nd Sample Collections for the transfusion of group specific blood effective October 28, 2019.

In January 2018 the Canadian Standards Association Z902-15 Blood and Blood Components released an amendment to clause 10.6.1.3:

> "To provide ABO group-compatible red blood cells, there shall be at least two determinations of the recipient's blood group on record: one from the current sample and the second from the
>
> a) Recipient's previous records;
>
> b) Testing of a separate sample collection; or
>
> c) Retesting of the same sample where positive patient identification technology was used at the time of sample collection
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> *Note: positive patient identification technology refers to a computerized system that uses a barcode, radio-frequency identification (RFID), or another electronically readable element on a patient's identification bank to confirm identity. This technology is not currently available in Central Zone.*

The amendment aides in identifying wrong blood in tube errors prior to dispensing red cells. **In order to achieve compliance to this standard, Central Zone will be communicating via a reportable comment on the patients ABO/Rh that a second sample is required. In cases of emergency and unable to collect second sample, group O red cells will be provided.**

If you have any queries on the above, please contact Dr. Jason Quinn at 902-802-6478 or Jason.quinn@nshealth.ca.