



Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Health Service Managers, Clinical Nurse Educators, NS Laboratory Directors, NS Laboratory Managers

From: Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (PLM) and Nova Scotia Provincial Blood Coordinating Team

Date: December 1st, 2021

Subject: Provincial Blood Administration Policy Revision

Effective **January 11th, 2022** the provincial policy and procedure document *Blood Component and Blood Product Administration* (NS CL-BP-030; IWK 625) will be revised.

Key changes include:

- References to Blood Transfusion Services (BTS) or Blood Bank (BB) have been changed to Transfusion Medicine (TM).
- A standardized 10% IVIG rate table for all brands has been added as appendix G.
- The Adverse Event Algorithm has been simplified for when a reaction is suspected.
- As per Choosing Wisely Canada, a policy statement had been added to consider alternative treatments before ordering blood.
- Clarifications to patient sample expiry and compatibility have been added to Appendix B.
- Sickle cell trait has been added to Appendix B: Special Transfusion Requirements.
- Extensive data on platelets agrees that the risk of hemolysis due to incompatibility is far outweighed by the risks associated with withholding platelets. Therefore, when group specific platelets are unavailable, the least incompatible unit may be issued and transfused.
- Policy and procedural statements have been added to:
 - Clarify the time limits for transfusing components and products.
 - Extend the time to return unused components or products to TM from 30 to 60 min.
 - Clarify that blood tubing filters must be completely covered with the priming solution or blood component prior to initiating transfusion.

Upon implementation January 11th, all NSH and IWK staff must follow this policy and procedure when transfusing components and products. Independent transfusionists that follow the NS CL-BP-035/IWK 626 Home Transfusion Guidelines must also adhere to this policy.

The policy authors are requesting feedback on current TM resources. This can be provided [here](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer LeFrense, Provincial Blood Coordinating Team Manager, at Jennifer.lefrense@nshealth.ca