



**BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE**  
**Dept. of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine**  
**Central Zone**

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Central Zone Medical Staff, Health Service Managers, and Nurse Educators

**From:** Dr. Irene Sadek, MD, FRCP(C), Medical Director, Blood Transfusion Service (BTS)  
Joan MacLeod, MLT, DBA, District Technical Manager, BTS

**Date:** May 11, 2015

**RE:** Implementation of New Red Blood Cell and Pooled Platelet Bags

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On May 25, 2015, Blood Transfusion Services will be dispensing new Red Blood Cell and Pooled Platelet Bags from Macopharma for transfusion.

Red Blood Cell Transfusion Bags

These Macopharma bags have been in use in Western Canada since 2004 and with a shared national inventory, many hospital customers are familiar with them. Given the ports on the current bags and the new ones are very similar, the transition for spiking is expected to be seamless. There will be no change to the labeling of the components as of result of this change in collection bags.

Pooled Platelets Bags

The Pooled Platelet bags are slightly shorter than the current bag and look very similar to an apheresis platelet bag. The tamper-evident port protector caps differ between the new and current bags but this is not expected to cause any difficulty to hospital staff. The Pooled Platelet bags meet the ISO 3926-1 standard for blood component containers and are made of a gas-permeable material which does not contain di-ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP) plasticizer.

Spiking instructions for the Red Blood Cell Transfusion and Pooled Platelet Bags are attached.

Thank you for your continued support as we move forward to ensure transfusion appropriateness and continue to enhance quality patient care. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Irene Sadek, BTS Medical Director, @ 473-8471 or via email, [irene.sadek@cdha.nshealth.ca](mailto:irene.sadek@cdha.nshealth.ca) , or Joan MacLeod, BTS Technical Manager, @ 473-8260 or via email, [joan.macleod@cdha.nshealth.ca](mailto:joan.macleod@cdha.nshealth.ca).