
INFORMATION ONLY

**Additional TRALI Reduction Measures for Plasma
Customer Letter #2010-28**

2010-08-10

Dear Colleague,

The purpose of this letter is to provide further information subsequent to Customer Letter #2010-09, Further Information Regarding Primary TRALI Reduction Measures and Customer Letter #2009-07, Important Information Regarding Primary TRALI Reduction Measures – Plateletpheresis.

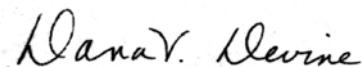
TRALI reduction measures began with the use of predominantly male plasma for the production of Frozen Plasma, Fresh Frozen Plasma, Cryosupernatant Plasma and Platelets, Pooled in October 2007; and expanded to include apheresis plasma in March 2008 and apheresis platelets in July 2009. Despite the move towards predominantly male plasma for transfusion, plasma from group AB female donors has continued to be processed to meet patient needs.

Beginning in mid-September, Canadian Blood Services will ask all female plasmapheresis donors about their pregnancy history. This measure is being taken to continue to reduce the risk of TRALI from the transfusion of plasma. If a donor has a history of pregnancy, including miscarriage or abortion, and if inventory levels are adequate, her plasma donation will be directed towards further manufacturing for production of plasma protein products, such as IVIg and Albumin. If a female donor indicates no history of pregnancy her plasma donation will be used for either transfusion or fractionation, based on inventory needs at that time.

This letter is to inform you that although plasma from female donors is being issued to hospitals for transfusion, by asking donors about pregnancy history we are continuing our commitment to TRALI Reduction Measures. However, as is current practice, plasma from female donors who have a pregnancy history may still be issued to meet group or component-specific urgent shortfalls; eg, group AB Fresh Frozen Plasma Apheresis. Plasma components are not labelled with the donor's gender or history of pregnancy. As with any transfusion, all adverse reactions shall be reported to Canadian Blood Services for follow-up.

This Customer Letter can also be viewed at www.blood.ca in the Hospital section under Customer Letters. If you have questions about this Customer Letter, please contact your Canadian Blood Services Hospital Liaison Specialist.

Sincerely,



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Vice-President, Medical, Scientific and Research Affairs