



INFORMATION ONLY

Research Use of Blood Components

Customer Letter # 2012-01

PLEASE FORWARD THIS LETTER TO THE HOSPITAL CEO and BLOOD BANK MEDICAL DIRECTOR

2012-01-09

Dear Customer:

According to past customer survey data, a small number of hospitals have indicated that they have used blood components in research, without donor consent. We appreciate that most of the hospitals that we serve are compliant with the standard Canadian practices with respect to human subject research. For those hospitals that are not compliant, we are writing to inform you that use of Canadian Blood Services products for research without prior consent of the donor is prohibited, based on the rationales set out below.

Canadian Blood Services' commitment to blood donors is that research involving donors, blood and blood products, or donor information will be governed according to the following principles:

- Such research will in general only be considered for approval when it relates to the mission and mandate of Canadian Blood Services (CBS);
- Such research will be subject to CBS' Research Ethics Board review;
- Researchers who are permitted to use donated blood components for research purposes shall be required to follow Canadian Blood Services' procedures for donor notification of any information discovered during the research which may disclose health risks for the donor.

We would ask you to help us to respect the rights of the donors, who are not of course asked to give consent to a specific research use of their donated blood unit at the time of donation. Even in exceptional circumstances where it may be deemed that ethics guidelines do not require consent of the donor, it is important to communicate this intention to Canadian Blood Services, so that the matter may be considered by CBS' Research Ethics Board, from the ethical perspective of the donor.

We have some limited capacity to assist researchers with the provision of blood components, and researchers should contact us about any specific needs in this regard.

This Customer Letter can also be viewed at www.blood.ca in the "Hospitals" section. If you have questions about this Customer Letter, please contact Canadian Blood Services via your local Hospital Liaison Specialists or Medical Director.

Sincerely,

Dana Devine, PhD.
Vice President, Medical, Scientific & Research Affairs