
ACTION REQUIRED**Upcoming Changes to Ig Supply and Actions for Hospitals****Customer Letter # 2020-50**

2020-12-15

Dear Colleagues:

As previously communicated by the National Emergency Blood Management Committee in their letter dated [October 2, 2020](#), the security of supply of immunoglobulin (Ig) products (IVIg and SCIg) has become a global concern. Canada faces both short- and long-term challenges related to Ig. In the short-term, we anticipate shortages of select vial sizes and brands. In the long-term, we are concerned about having enough Ig inventory to meet demand.

Currently, there is sufficient inventory of Ig products to meet the needs of patients in Canada. However, there are early signs of possible supply disruptions, with a higher risk of disruption for IVIg than SCIg. As a result, Canadian Blood Services has been engaged in discussions with the manufacturers of Ig products to secure additional supply. These efforts have focused on IVIg products, as our **SCIg inventory is currently stable**.

We have secured additional IVIg supply, which should help to mitigate a shortage. However, there are two key messages to take away:

1. All options to procure more Ig for the foreseeable future have been exhausted. If an unexpected event occurs that further jeopardizes supply, or if demand trends increase beyond current forecast assumptions, Canada may experience an IVIg shortage.
2. Hospital customers must be prepared to issue all existing IVIg brands and vial sizes currently listed on our order form, with the addition of Octagam. The details regarding Octagam will be shared in a future Customer Letter.

Important changes to national IVIg share splits

Table 1 outlines the current and projected national share splits. There are two key messages:

1. At a minimum *all hospitals* will need to reduce their use of Gammagard Liquid by half and replace it with Gamunex, Panzyga and/or Octagam by **April 1, 2021 at the latest**. Without this action, Gammagard Liquid stock will be depleted by July 2021.
2. It is important that hospitals follow the new share splits as additional supply cannot be procured to make up any differences. Canadian Blood Services will monitor share splits and contact hospitals, as necessary.

Table 1: National Share Splits for IVIg

Product	Current Demand Share	Projected 2021-2022 Share Split
Gammagard Liquid	48%	26%
IGIVnex/Gamunex	32%	44%
Privigen	17%	16%
Panzyga	2%	6%
Octagam**	0%	8%
**Octagam expected in early 2021		

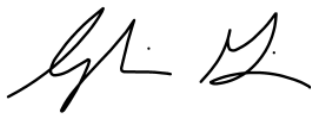
Our goal is to maintain a stable supply, but given the unpredictability of global Ig supply all hospital customers must be prepared to be agile and responsive to fluctuations. Please continue to convert patients to SCIg when clinically appropriate. As a reminder, please do not provide patients with more than a 3-month allotment of SCIg to prevent large fluctuations in demand.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration. We recognize the inconvenience and challenges these changes will cause for hospitals, transfusion services, clinicians, nurses and patients, but these steps are necessary to ensure adequate supply for patients.

Please share a copy of this customer letter with healthcare professionals at your hospital who might be interested in this information.

This customer letter can also be viewed at www.blood.ca in the “Hospitals Services” section. If you have questions about this letter, or if you require it in an accessible format, please contact your local hospital liaison specialist.

Sincerely,



Sylvain Grenier,
Director, Plasma Protein and Related Products Formulary Program