
INFORMATION ONLY

Changes to group AB cryoprecipitate production
Customer Letter # 2017-14

2017-04-20

Dear Customer:

Demand for group AB plasma continues to grow and, at times, the demand is greater than the supply. Approximately 3% of the general population of Canada are group AB and approximately 4% of Canadian Blood Services whole blood donors are group AB. In contrast, hospital issues of group AB plasma represent over 13% of all plasma issued.

As universal donors for plasma, group AB donors are consistently asked to donate. Further, as group AB red cells are not in high demand, the need for whole blood collections from AB donors to produce plasma and cryoprecipitate must be balanced with the need to minimize the discard and outdating of group AB red cells.

To address the requirement for increased group AB plasma production and to better meet our customers' needs, Canadian Blood Services recently made changes to how we manage donations from group AB males to maximize the production of group AB plasma. Since we cannot produce plasma and platelets when we make cryoprecipitate, Canadian Blood Services has significantly decreased the manufacture of cryoprecipitate from male group AB donations. This will allow for the increased manufacture of plasma from male group AB donations. A limited amount of group AB cryoprecipitate will continue to be manufactured, mainly from group AB female donations.

These changes will allow us to produce more group AB plasma, which is greatly needed, but will result in a reduction of the amount of group AB cryoprecipitate and group AB cryosupernatant produced. Cryoprecipitate will continue to be produced as required for all other ABO groups.

We acknowledge that existing literature and clinical guidelines do not comment on the need for group-specific cryoprecipitate or on the use of non-group AB cryoprecipitate when a patient's blood group is unknown. However, the most recent edition (version 4, April 2017) of the Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine Standards for Hospital Transfusion Services (5.4.3.2) states that "*adult recipients can be transfused with any ABO group of cryoprecipitate.*"

We trust that our hospital customers will assist our efforts to improve the availability of group AB plasma for transfusion by examining individual hospital policies regarding the use of group AB cryoprecipitate.

Some of the demand for group AB cryoprecipitate may be alleviated by using fibrinogen concentrate (RiaSTAP®). See the [cover letter](#) of the November 2016 Cryoprecipitate and Fibrinogen BloodBrief for more details.

We further acknowledge that the supply of group AB cryosupernatant may decrease over time. Solvent detergent (SD) plasma may be used for those patients who may require group AB cryosupernatant.

Thank you for your understanding and support of this strategy.

This customer letter can also be viewed at www.blood.ca in the "Hospitals" 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,



Dana Devine, Ph.D.
Chief Medical & Scientific Officer