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**INFORMATION ONLY**

Changes to Recommendations for the Provision of CMV Seronegative Blood Products

Customer Letter # 2017-22

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2017-06-15

Dear Customer:

On February 14, 2017, the National Advisory Committee (NAC) on Blood and Blood Products updated their recommendations on the use of Cytomegalovirus (CMV) seronegative blood products. These recommendations have been endorsed by all provinces, through the Provincial and Territorial Blood Liaison Committee.

The following is the NAC statement regarding the appropriateness of use of CMV seronegative versus CMV safe product (February 14, 2017).

***Recommendation #1***

*The National Advisory Committee recommends that CMV safe (leukoreduced) and CMV IgG seronegative products be considered equivalent except for intrauterine transfusion.*

***Recommendation #2***

*The National Advisory Committee recommends that Canadian Blood Services stop their current process for testing and provision of CMV seronegative units issued to hospital facilities and develop a new process to maintain a small inventory of CMV seronegative blood components for the sole purpose of intrauterine transfusion.*

***Recommendation #3***

*The National Advisory Committee recommends that Canadian Blood Services explores the feasibility of providing a small boutique inventory of dually tested (seronegative and NAT) CMV negative blood components for the sole purpose of intrauterine transfusion.*

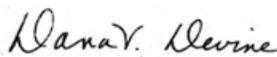
For more information regarding the NAC's statement, including a list of relevant publications, please visit <http://www.nacblood.ca/resources/guidelines/CMV.html>.

As stewards of the blood system, Canadian Blood Services will be working to implement the NAC recommendations with an anticipated date of implementation of October 2017. After that time, CMV seronegative blood products (red cells and platelets) **will be available for intrauterine transfusions only.**

Further information about these changes will be sent closer to the implementation date.

This customer letter can also be viewed at [www.blood.ca](http://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