

Important Information Regarding ISBT 128 Planned Implementation at Canadian Blood Services

Customer Letter #2008-06

2008-04-09

Dear Colleague:

This letter pertains to:

ISBT 128 Planned Implementation at Canadian Blood Services

Further to Customer Letter #2007-04 (February 1, 2007) informing hospitals of Canadian Blood Services' commitment to implement ISBT 128, this is to notify you that Canadian Blood Services will soon initiate a project to implement ISBT 128. Subject to Canadian Blood Services successful systems upgrade and approval by Health Canada, Canadian Blood Services plans to implement **ISBT 128 across Canada by May 2009**.

ISBT 128 is an international standard for the labeling of blood components with the objective of achieving international consistency in the information provided on component end labels and the placement of such information. The standard uses Code 128 barcode symbology which is more robust and offers more data control than the current Codabar barcode symbology. One of the key benefits of the ISBT 128 labeling standard is the unique numbering of all blood components. This contrasts with the current system in which donation numbers repeat over a specified time period due to the limitations of the donation number sequence.

In order to implement ISBT 128, Canadian Blood Services will be upgrading our blood management software system. Likewise, hospitals may be required to update or change their current lab information systems, and bar code scanners and printers to be compliant with the ISBT 128 standard. Implementation of ISBT 128 will have impacts for laboratory, nursing, medical records and information services therefore it is imperative that this information be communicated to them. In order to ensure that everyone is adequately prepared for ISBT 128 implementation, please forward all information that we communicate to you, including this Customer Letter, to the directors and managers of all relevant departments in your facility, including the Office of the CEO.

We are committed to ensuring that hospitals have timely and adequate information to prepare for ISBT 128 implementation. As our project proceeds, Canadian Blood Services will continue to share information and plans with hospitals in a timely manner. We will be posting information regarding ISBT 128 and its implementation at Canadian Blood Services to the Canadian Blood Services Transfusion Medicine web site at www.transfusionmedicine.ca. Specific information on the future label design and sample labels will be made available early in the project.

Detailed information on ISBT 128 is available on the website of The International Council for Commonality in Blood Banking Automation, Inc. at www.iccbba.org. Guidance on ISBT 128 implementation is also available for AABB members at www.aabb.org.

If you have any additional questions regarding ISBT 128 and the anticipated implementation date of May 2009, please do not hesitate to contact your local Canadian Blood Services Hospital Liaison Specialist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Mumford', written in a cursive style.

Ian Mumford
Chief Operating Officer

Encl.

**CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES
HOSPITAL LIAISON SPECIALIST
LISTED BY REGION**

**SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DU SANG
SPÉCIALISTES DE LA LIAISON AVEC LES
HÔPITAUX
LISTE PAR RÉGION**

Regions Région	Hospital Liaison Specialist Spécialiste de la liaison avec les hôpitaux	Phone Téléphone	Email Courriel
BC & Yukon C.-B. et Yukon	Janet Unrau	604-707-3516	janet.unrau@blood.ca
Alberta	Colleen Young	780-431-8738	colleen.young@blood.ca
Prairies	Valerie Paulson	306-347-1633	valerie.paulson@blood.ca
Northern & Eastern Ontario Nord et Est de l'Ontario	Denyse Tremblay	613-560-7259	denyse.tremblay@blood.ca
Southern Ontario Sud de l'Ontario	Jon Fawcett	905-645-6568	jon.fawcett@blood.ca
Central Ontario Centre de l'Ontario	Ahmed Coovadia	416-313-4452	ahmed.coovadia@blood.ca
Atlantic (NS & NL) Atlantique (N.-É. et T.-N.-L.)	Cheryl Doncaster	902-474-8291	cheryl.doncaster@blood.ca
Atlantic (NB & PEI) Atlantique (N.-B. et Î.-P.-É.)	Dorothy Harris	506-648-5054	dorothy.harris@blood.ca