October 2016

Dear Hospital Colleague:

Nationally, the overall demand for plasma for transfusion has been declining since 2007. Despite this downward trend the demand for group AB plasma continues to increase. From April 2015 – March 2016 a total of 19,588 AB plasma units were issued to hospitals served by Canadian Blood Services equating to 13.1% of total plasma units issued to hospitals (Figure 1). In 2014-2015 the amount of AB plasma issued to hospitals was 18,159 units. On closer examination of overall issue data, the percentage of group AB plasma of all blood groups issued varies significantly: 2% -100%. The demand for AB plasma is not consistent within hospital peer group categories, perhaps indicating different patterns of practice.

Approximately 3% of the general population of Canada are group AB and approximately 4% of CBS whole blood donors are group AB. However AB plasma hospital issues have increased to over 13% of all plasma. As universal donors for plasma, our group AB donors are consistently asked to donate.

In a continued effort to promote optimal utilization of AB plasma, this is the fourth year that hospital transfusion committees are being engaged via BloodBrief. This year, the BloodBrief provides three years of AB plasma issue data and available 2015-2016 AB plasma disposition data specific to hospitals, ranking based on the absolute number of AB plasma units issued, peer group comparison, anonymized and identified (64.6% of hospitals) issue data for hospitals across the country as a reference. Please refer to the footnotes with the BloodBrief data tables when reviewing the data.

The goal is to continue to heighten hospital awareness of issue trends over time and compared to other hospitals. Results from the BloodBrief effectiveness survey conducted in January 2016 confirmed survey results from 2014 and revealed that for 90% of survey respondents the BloodBrief highlighted data/information that was new and it also prompts hospitals to review transfusion practice and blood component demand.

Hospitals have asked if hospital names could be provided within the BloodBrief, in order to enhance benchmarking. You will see that this BloodBrief includes the names of hospitals who have given permission to be “unblinded”. If your hospital name is not shown, but you feel it would be acceptable to do so in future BloodBriefs, please let us know by contacting your Hospital Liaison Specialist.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions or comments you may have regarding the content of this BloodBrief. Alternately, your local Canadian Blood Services Medical Officer or Hospital Liaison Specialist is available as well.
**BloodBrief**
-An Update on AB Plasma-

Sincerely,

**K. Webert**

Kathryn Webert, MD, MSc, FRCP
Medical Director, Utilization
Canadian Blood Services
Telephone: 905-304-7282
kathryn.webert@blood.ca

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**Figure 1:** AB plasma as a percentage of plasma issued by Canadian Blood Services to hospitals in all provinces (except Quebec) since 2009.