Pathogen Inactivation – A Primer

Canadian Blood Services is committed to blood safety because lives depend on it. A number of safeguards are in place to reduce the risk of infectious disease transmission from donor to patient. Despite these safeguards, the risk of infectious disease transmission, though very low, remains.

Pathogen inactivation technologies could help to tackle those gaps and make the blood supply even safer. Rather than focusing on the detection of specific, known pathogens, these technologies focus on inactivating any pathogens that may be present in a blood product. These technologies add a new layer of safety against emerging or unknown pathogens. Pathogen inactivation is often called a paradigm-altering approach because it is a pro-active rather than a re-active approach to blood safety.

Canadian Blood Services has been studying and evaluating pathogen inactivation technologies for some years. Recently, through our Centre for Innovation we have been working to understand how these technologies would work in our manufacturing system, and how they would impact the quality of our blood products and ultimately patient safety.


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