

Health Programs and Delivery Division

Division des programmes de santé et de la prestation des services

Drug Programs Policy and Strategy Branch

Direction des politiques et des stratégies relatives aux programmes de médicaments

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September 1, 2023

RE: Wind-down of Canadian Blood Services Interim COVID-19 Initiative - Home Delivery of Plasma Protein and Related Products

Dear Hospital Colleagues,

In May 2020, Canadian Blood Services gave hospitals access, at no charge, to a courier service to deliver plasma protein and related products directly to patients' homes who were immunocompromised and at higher risk of infection of COVID-19.

The Ministry of Health ("ministry") on advisement of the Ontario Emergency Blood Management Committee (OEBMC) supported Canadian Blood Services' interim initiative and in May 2020 sent a letter to hospitals about the interim initiative.

On behalf of the ministry, I would like to thank hospitals that have participated in the Program, as it ensured high-risk patients continued to receive their treatments during the COVID-19 pandemic. I would also like to thank hospitals that put their own measures in place to ensure patients continued to receive their treatments during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the lower rates of COVID-19 and high vaccination rates, the ministry is transitioning to normalized health care operations. **As part of this transition, the Canadian Blood Services interim initiative will wind-down effective March 1, 2024.** In the interim the services of the courier company will continue to be made available to hospitals that are participating in the initiative.

The ministry requests that hospitals inform any impacted patients of the upcoming changes and hospital transfusion services discuss alternate plans with patients.

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If you have any questions, please email ONBlood@ontario.ca. Thank you again for your continued efforts in supporting patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AW', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Angie Wong
Director, Drug Programs Policy and Strategy

c:

Neeta Sarta, A/Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Programs and Delivery Division
Ontario Emergency Blood Management Committee Members