



Canadian Blood Services
Soci t  canadienne du sang

Head Office / Si ge social
1800 Alta Vista
Ottawa, ON K1G 4J5
T 613.739.2300 F 613.731.1411
www.blood.ca www.sang.ca

INFORMATION ONLY

Further Implementation of Fenwal Blood Storage Bags at Canadian Blood Services – Hamilton Customer Letter # 2010-07

2010-03-08

Dear Customer,

Executive Summary:

Fenwal collection sets will be used at CBS Hamilton site as of **April 26, 2010**. Fenwal collection sets are currently in use in other parts of the country. Product content and labels will be unchanged and customers should continue to use the 'quarter turn twist' spiking technique when entering the Fenwal bags.

Full Story:

Canadian Blood Services (CBS) uses a dual vendor system for whole blood collection sets as part of our business continuity planning. Hospitals may have already received red cells and plasma storage containers from both MacoPharma and Fenwal (previously Baxter). CBS Hamilton is making operational adjustments to the vendor mix, and will be collecting all whole blood donations in the Fenwal collection sets as of April 26, 2010. Customers can expect to see an increase in the number of Fenwal storage containers that they receive. Hospital staff may observe slight differences in the design of the containers used to store red cells and plasma components.

The main changes affecting the hospitals are:

- The length of the Fenwal red cell storage container is approximately 3 cm shorter than the MacoPharma container.
- The length of the Fenwal plasma storage container is approximately 5 cm shorter than MacoPharma storage container.
- There is a different method to access the port on the red cell and plasma storage container; the MacoPharma container has “pull-apart tabs”, identified by arrows on the top of the port protectors, while the Fenwal container has peel apart port protectors. Customers may want to refer to the training material previously distributed for more detail on this difference. Information is also available electronically on the CBS Transfusion Medicine website (<http://www.transfusionmedicine.ca/>), access “Articles” and then “Buffy Coat Production Method”.

There will be no change to the storage container for the CPD Platelets, Pooled, LR. The change to red cell and plasma storage containers has no impact to the product codes already in use in your Laboratory Information Systems as the red cell preservative and anticoagulant remain the same.

This Customer Letter can also be viewed at www.blood.ca in the “Hospitals – Customer Letters” section. If you have questions about this Customer Letter, please contact the Hamilton Production Manager at 905-645-6363.

Sincerely,

Ian Mumford
Chief Operating Officer

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