



**INFORMATION ONLY**

**Release of Plasma Component Circulars of Information –  
Change in Storage of Thawed Plasma from 24 Hours to 120 Hours (5 Days)  
Customer Letter # 2011-22**

2011-08-15

Dear Customer:

Canadian Blood Services (CBS) is extending the storage of thawed **Frozen Plasma (FP)** and **Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP)** components from 24 hours to 120 hours (5 days) to align with the current CAN/CSA-Z902-10 standard, other industry standards, scientific publications and practices already implemented by transfusion services in some customer facilities. **Fresh Frozen Plasma Apheresis (FFPA)**, Cryosupernatant and Cryoprecipitate are not impacted by this change.

To reflect this change, CBS is releasing the new June 2011 versions of the plasma component Circulars of Information to address the change in storage of thawed plasma from 24 hours to 120 hours (5 days).

The titles of the new Circulars are:

- **Plasma Components (FFPA, FP CPD, Cryosupernatant CPD, Cryoprecipitate CPD)**
- **Plasma Components (FFP CP2D, FP CP2D, Cryosupernatant CP2D, Cryoprecipitate CP2D)**

Revised sections include **Storage and handling**, **Warnings and precautions** and **References**. Please refer to the enclosed Tables for revision details.

Electronic versions of the new Circulars will replace the current posted Circulars and may be accessed at [www.transfusionmedicine.ca](http://www.transfusionmedicine.ca) or [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca).

CBS has completed an internal study and has submitted a paper entitled, “*Changes in coagulation factor activity and content of di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) in frozen plasma (FP) units during refrigerated storage for up to five days post-thaw*”; the paper has been accepted for peer-reviewed publication in the journal, Transfusion. A summary of CBS’s internal study is available. If you would like a copy please contact your local Hospital Liaison Specialist.

The June 2011 versions of the plasma component Circulars supersede the following February 2011 Circulars:

- **Plasma Components (FFPA, FP CPD, Cryosupernatant CPD, Cryoprecipitate CPD)**
- **Plasma Components (FFP CP2D, FP CP2D, Cryosupernatant CP2D, Cryoprecipitate CP2D)**

This Customer Letter and the enclosures can also be viewed at [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca) in the “Hospitals” section. If you have questions about this Customer Letter, please contact your local Canadian Blood Services Hospital Liaison Specialist.

Sincerely,

Dana Devine, Ph.D.  
Vice President, Medical, Scientific & Research Affairs

encl. Attachment 1



**Circulars of Information – Revision Summary Attachment 1**

**Table 1**

<b>Circular of Information, Plasma Components(FFPA, FP CPD, Cryosupernatant CPD, Cryoprecipitate CPD)</b>	
<b>February 2011 Version</b>	<b>June 2011 Version</b>
<b>Storage and handling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>FFPA, FP and Cryosupernatant Plasma:</b> store at 1 - 6°C and transfuse within 24 hours.</li> </ul>	<b>Storage and handling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>FFPA and Cryosupernatant Plasma:</b> store at 1 - 6°C and transfuse within 24 hours.</li> <li>▪ <b>FP:</b> store at 1 - 6°C and transfuse within 120 hours.</li> </ul>
	<b>Warnings and precautions</b> DEHP plasticizer is known to leach from DEHP-plasticized bags into blood and blood components. DEHP levels in thawed <b>FP</b> may significantly increase over time during storage at 1 – 6°C for 120 hours. Currently, there is no conclusive scientific evidence that DEHP exposure via medical treatments has harmful effects in humans. However, it is recognized that the potentially high risk exposure during medical treatment may raise a concern for harmful effects in humans. Reducing DEHP exposure in neonatal patients has been recommended. <sup>1,5</sup>  Some clotting factor activity in thawed <b>FP</b> may be significantly lost during storage for up to 120 hours. <sup>6,7</sup>
	<b>References</b> 5. Roseff S, editor. Pediatric transfusion: a physician’s handbook. 3 <sup>rd</sup> ed. Bethesda (MD): AABB; 2009 p187-8. 6. Yazer MH, Cortese-Hassett A, Triulzi DJ. Coagulation factor levels in plasma frozen within 24 hours of phlebotomy over 5 days of storage at 1 – 6°C. Transfusion 2008;48:2525-30. 7. Scott E, Puca K, Heraly J, et al. Evaluation and comparison of coagulation factor activity in fresh-frozen plasma and 24-hour plasma at thaw and after 120 hours of 1 – 6°C storage. Transfusion 2009;49:1584-91.

**Table 2**

<b>Circular of Information, Plasma Components(FFP CP2D, FP CP2D, Cryosupernatant CP2D, Cryoprecipitate CP2D)</b>	
<b>February 2011 Version</b>	<b>June 2011 Version</b>
<b>Storage and handling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>FFP, FP, and Cryosupernatant Plasma:</b> store at 1 - 6°C and transfuse within 24 hours.</li> </ul>	<b>Storage and handling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Cryosupernatant Plasma:</b> store at 1 - 6°C and transfuse within 24 hours.</li> <li>▪ <b>FFP and FP:</b> store at 1 – 6°C and transfuse within 120 hours.</li> </ul>
	<b>Warnings and precautions</b> Some clotting factor activity in thawed <b>FFP</b> and <b>FP</b> may be significantly lost during storage for up to 120 hours. <sup>4,5</sup>
	<b>References</b> 4. Yazer MH, Cortese-Hassett A, Triulzi DJ. Coagulation factor levels in plasma frozen within 24 hours of phlebotomy over 5 days of storage at 1 – 6°C. Transfusion 2008;48:2525-30. 5. Scott E, Puca K, Heraly J, et al. Evaluation and comparison of coagulation factor activity in fresh-frozen plasma and 24-hour plasma at thaw and after 120 hours of 1 – 6°C storage. Transfusion 2009;49:1584-91.