



National Emergency Blood Management Committee

February 3, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Immunoglobulin (Ig) Inventory Update and Reminder of Action for Hospitals

The National Emergency Blood Management Committee (NEBMC) continues to meet regularly during the COVID-19 pandemic to monitor and assess inventory levels of fresh blood components and all plasma protein related products, with a particular focus on Ig. Subcutaneous immunoglobulin (SCIg) is in good supply with no projected inventory challenges. However, there is continued concern about the future supply of IVIg, which will be ongoing for at least the next 12 months.

The NEBMC is grateful for the progress of provincial and territorial jurisdictions to prepare for potential shortages of specific vial sizes and brands of IVIg products, and efforts to preserve the supplies for clinical conditions with no therapeutic alternatives. Since October 2020, much progress has been made and work needs to continue, as part of preparedness activities, to prevent a shortage or advisory situation and patient impact.

At this time, there is a stable inventory of IVIg products sufficient to meet patient needs in the provincial and territorial jurisdictions served by Canadian Blood Services. Specific IVIg brand and vial size availability are being closely monitored. Limitations in the supply of specific brands may lead to individual patient treatments being impacted by required transitions to alternate IVIg brands. Ig prescribers and transfusion medicine leaders within hospitals are asked to continue to action preparedness activities per the [October 2020 NEBMC guidance](#).

Your continued support and collaboration are essential to minimize patient care impact as we prepare for the possibility of future IVIg supply disruptions. The NEBMC will provide further guidance, if necessary, as this situation evolves. We recognize the inconvenience and challenges this will cause for hospitals, transfusion services, clinicians, nurses and patients, and we will ensure that all are given as much notice as possible should further actions be required.

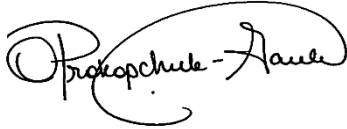
Please share a copy of this communication with other healthcare professionals and clinicians with interest and experience relevant to the use of Ig products.

*The National Emergency Blood Management Committee is comprised of the National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products, Provincial Territorial Blood Liaison representatives and key Canadian Blood Services personnel. This group develops recommendations and provides advice to the P/T Ministries of Health, hospitals and regional health authorities, and Canadian Blood Services to support a consistent and coordinated response to critical blood shortages in Canada.

For information about the shortages plans that are available, please see: <https://www.nacblood.ca/resources/shortages-plan/index.html>

Sincerely,

Co-Chairs, National Emergency Blood Management Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Prokopchuk-Gauk".

Dr. Oksana Prokopchuk-Gauk
Chair, National Advisory Committee
on Blood and Blood Products

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Prinzen".

Rick Prinzen
Chief Supply Chain Officer &
Vice President
Canadian Blood Services

Reference: [The National Plan for Management of Shortages of Immunoglobulin Products \(Ig\) – Interim Guidance](#)

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