



MEMORANDUM from TRANSFUSION MEDICINE

TO: All HHS and SJH Medical Staff and Residents, Nursing Staff, Clinician Educators, and Clerical Staff

CC: Transfusion Medicine Technologists and Laboratory Assistants

FROM: Dr. M. Verhovsek, Adult Hemoglobinopathy Program Director
Dr. T. Warkentin, Transfusion Medical Director
Ms. Sandra Fazari, Transfusion Medicine, Stem Cell and Tissue Typing Laboratory Manager
Ms. Allahna Elahie, Transfusion Medicine Technical Specialist

RE: **Changes to selection of Red Cell Concentrates for Sickle Cell Disease Patients**

DATE: March 11th 2015

This memo is to inform you that as of February 17, 2015 changes in practice have occurred in Transfusion Medicine for our Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) patient population. With the following changes, we are now meeting best practice clinical guidelines and implementing changes that enhance patient safety and quality of care.

1. SCD patients will be fully phenotyped and genotyped for red blood cell antigens.
2. Transfusion Medicine will be a participant in the Canadian Blood Services Sickle Registry.
3. All Red Cell Concentrates (RCCs) issued for transfusion for SCD patients will be Hb S negative.
4. SCD patients with alloantibodies will receive full phenotyped-matched RCCs (Rh, K, Fya, Jka, Jkb, S and s)

SCD patients without history of alloantibodies will continue to receive RCCs that are phenotype-matched for Rh and K.

What does this mean for clinicians?

1. When sending a Group and Screen for the first time on a SCD patient new to HHS or SJH, please ensure the Transfusion Medicine laboratory is notified that this is a SCD patient by phoning the Transfusion Medicine Laboratory and/or by entering "Sickle Cell Disease" in the order comment field.
2. When a SCD patient requires RCCs urgently *before* phenotypically matched, and/or HbS negative, and/or ≤ 14 day old RCC units can be provided, the Hematologist on-call at that site will be contacted by Transfusion Medicine Technologists. The Hematologist will make the clinical decision to wait or to transfuse with the RCCs that are immediately available.

If you have any questions about this change in practice please contact Madeleine Verhovsek (verhovm@mcmaster.ca) or Allahna Elahie (elahie@hhsc.ca or extension 73732).