



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Emergency Department Physicians and Residents, Thromboembolism Physicians, and Transfusion Medicine Staff at HHS and SJHH

**FROM:** Wendy Lim, Director of Operations, Transfusion Medicine, HRLMP

**DATE:** March 25, 2014

**RE:** **Release of Prothrombin Complex Concentrates (PCC) for Intracranial Hemorrhage in Patients who present to the Emergency Department**

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Prothrombin complex concentrates (PCCs) including Octaplex® and Beriplex® are used to rapidly reverse the anticoagulant effects of vitamin K antagonists such as warfarin (Coumadin®). Requests for PCCs require approval by the Thromboembolism service at Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) sites and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton (SJHH).

An exception to the need for approval will be made for patients on **warfarin** who present to the Emergency Department with intracranial hemorrhage (ICH). In this situation, the requesting physician may obtain PCCs by contacting Transfusion Medicine, specifying the patient name, PCC dose and indicating this request is for a patient with ICH. As per usual procedure, a written order will be required and the request faxed to Transfusion Medicine. The Thromboembolism service may still be contacted if consultation is required. Please note that this exception does not apply in patients receiving the target-specific oral anticoagulants (eg. Dabigatran [Pradaxa], Rivaroxaban [Xarelto], or Apixaban [Eliquis]) and the Thromboembolism Service should be contacted for direction on how to manage bleeding in those patients.

Information on PCC dosing can be obtained on the McMaster Division of Hematology website under Clinical Protocols:

[http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/medicine/hematology/anticoag\\_octoplex.htm](http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/medicine/hematology/anticoag_octoplex.htm).

Thank you for your attention to this matter.