

BloodBrief

-An Update on AB Plasma-



August 2018

Dear Hospital Colleague:

Nationally, the overall demand for plasma for transfusion has been declining since 2007. Despite this downward trend the proportion of group AB plasma units requested by hospitals continues to increase. From April 2017 – March 2018 a total of 16,637 AB plasma units were issued to hospitals served by Canadian Blood Services equating to 14.1% of total plasma units issued to hospitals (Figure 1). On closer examination of overall issue data, the percentage of group AB plasma of all blood groups issued varies significantly: 1.8% -100%. The demand for AB plasma is not consistent within hospital peer group categories, perhaps indicating different patterns of practice.

Approximately 3% of the general population of Canada are group AB and approximately 4% of CBS whole blood donors are group AB. However, AB plasma hospital issues have increased to over 14% of all plasma. As universal donors for plasma, our group AB donors are consistently asked to donate.

In a continued effort to promote optimal utilization of AB plasma, this is the fifth year that hospital transfusion committees are being engaged via BloodBrief. This year, the BloodBrief provides three years of AB plasma issue data specific to hospitals, ranking within the AB plasma issues list, anonymized and identified (86.7% of hospitals) issue data for hospitals across the country as a reference. If your hospital name is not shown, but you feel it would be acceptable to do so in future BloodBriefs, please let us know by contacting your Hospital Liaison Specialist. Please refer to the footnotes with the BloodBrief data tables when reviewing the data.

The goal is to continue to heighten hospital awareness of issue trends over time and compared to other hospitals. Results from the BloodBrief effectiveness survey conducted in January 2016 confirmed survey results from 2014 and revealed that for 90% of survey respondents the BloodBrief highlighted data/information that was new and it also prompts hospitals to review transfusion practice and blood component demand.

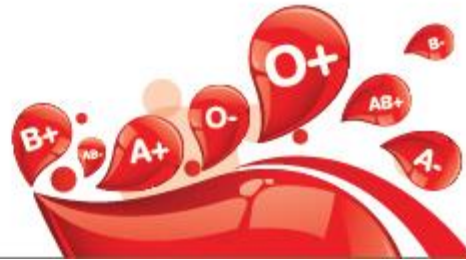
Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions or comments you may have regarding the content of this BloodBrief. Alternately, your local Canadian Blood Services Medical Officer or Hospital Liaison Specialist is available as well.

Sincerely,

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% AB Plasma Issues of Total Plasma Issues

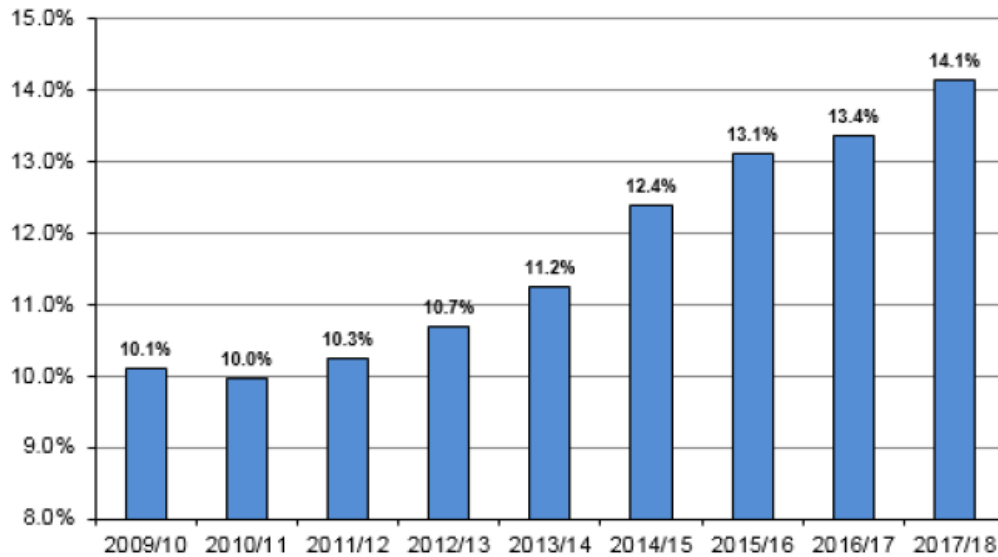


Figure 1: AB plasma as a percentage of plasma issued by Canadian Blood Services to hospitals in all provinces (except Quebec) since 2009.

AB Plasma Issues & Fiscal Period Growth Rates

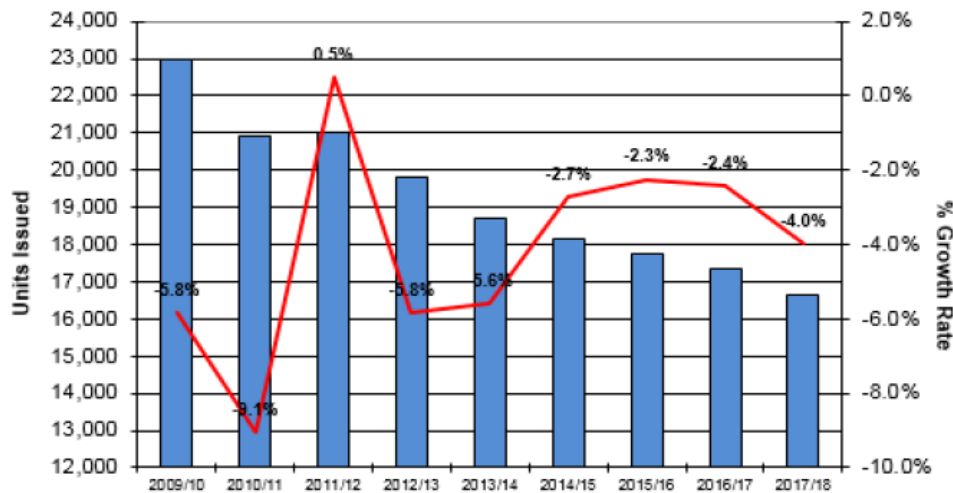


Figure 2: AB plasma units issued by Canadian Blood Services to hospitals in all provinces (except Quebec) and corresponding growth rates since 2009.