



**Canadian
Blood
Services**

BLOOD
PLASMA
STEM CELLS
ORGANS
& TISSUES

1800 Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa ON
K1G 4J5
Canada

ACTION REQUIRED

New Visual Inspection Tool (VIT)

Customer Letter # 2024-05

2024-01-29

Dear Colleagues:

Canadian Blood Services is pleased to announce that a new Visual Inspection Tool has been developed to support personnel in hospital settings with the visual inspection of blood components for transfusion. The new tool will be available on 2024-01-29.

The Visual Inspection Tool (<https://profedu.blood.ca/en/visual-inspection-tool>) replaces the Visual Assessment Guide (T05 021 January 2009 version) and may be viewed on a desktop or mobile device. Unlike the Visual Assessment Guide, the new Visual Inspection Tool is intended for online use only and is **not** formatted for printing.

The Visual Inspection Tool is a bench-level tool that depicts variations in the typical appearance of blood components. As no two blood components will look exactly the same, this tool should be used in conjunction with other institutional protocols or work instructions for the visual inspection of components.

The Visual Inspection Tool is structured around four component types (red blood cells, platelets, plasma and cryoprecipitate). Buttons at the top of each component page indicate conditions or characteristics associated with a change in the component's appearance. Clicking on a button allows users to see examples of units with an atypical appearance due to that condition or characteristic, viewed alongside a typical unit. Compared to the Visual Assessment Guide, this new tool contains up-to-date images of currently available transfusable blood components and their variations and can be updated if/when additional images become available.

The Visual Inspection Tool is currently available in English only; the French version will be available soon.

On 2024-01-29, please discard all English copies of the Visual Assessment Guide (T05 021 January 2009 version) flip book from your facility.

Users of the French version of the Visual Assessment Guide (Guide d'inspection visuelle-https://professionaleducation.blood.ca/sites/default/files/VAG_FR.pdf) can retain their hard copies until the French version of the Visual Inspection Tool has been posted on the professional education website.



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For plasma protein and related products, please continue to follow the product inspection instructions provided in the product monograph.

Please share a copy of this customer letter with healthcare professionals at your hospital who might be interested in this information.

This customer letter can also be viewed at www.blood.ca in the “Hospital Services” section. If you have questions about this letter, or if you require it in an accessible format, please contact your local hospital liaison specialist.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tanya Petraszko

Senior Medical Director, Medical, Laboratory, and Stem Cell Services