



Canadian
Blood
Services

BLOOD
PLASMA
STEM CELLS
ORGANS
& TISSUES

1800 Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa ON
K1G 4J5
Canada

INFORMATION ONLY

Leukoreduced Whole Blood Clinical Studies

Customer Letter # 2024-30

2024-09-12

Dear Colleagues:

Canadian Blood Services (CBS) currently manufactures Leukoreduced Whole Blood (LrWB) for military use only. In alignment with recommendations from the National Advisory Committee for Blood and Blood Products (NAC), Canadian Blood Services will be expanding access to LrWB for non-military use.

<https://nacblood.ca/en/resource/whole-blood-leukocytes-reduced-recommendations>

The NAC recommends that the demand for blood components (RBC, plasma, and platelets) be satisfied over LrWB in the absence of clear evidence of benefit of LrWB on patient outcomes. LrWB has not been established to improve patient outcomes compared with other component therapy and the impact of LrWB on the inventory of other components in Canada is not known. LrWB has a shorter shelf-life than RBC (21 vs 42 days) which may lead to increased wastage.

Given the above, non-military access to LrWB will be initially expanded ONLY to clinical studies. As per NAC recommendations, Canadian Blood Services is developing a process to intake and assess requests from hospitals participating in clinical studies against capacity. Information about this process will be released in the coming months.

Hospital sites that anticipate participating in a clinical study for this component will need to ensure that their hospital LIS is configured to accept this component.

Please reach out to your regional Canadian Blood Services Hospital Liaison Specialist to obtain information on how to apply to participate in a clinical study or for any questions or concerns.

NOTE: In September, hospital portal users may start to see the category of Whole Blood on the inventory and disposition forms. This will allow the Canadian Blood Services IT teams to set up this component in our systems first. ***This information is provided for awareness. Hospitals do not need to complete inventory and disposition submissions any differently at this time.***

Below is the ISBT Code and an example of the blood bag label for LrWB.

ISBT Code: E0033V00



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