



Wednesday, 2 March 2011

Dear Colleague:

Re: Use of Blood Service Shipper 'Configuration C' to Transport Blood and Blood Products

As part of our commitment to continuous quality improvement, the Blood Service has undertaken a review of the validation of its shipper boxes and the packing configurations used to transport blood and blood products. In doing so, we have identified anomalies with the temperature stability of the packing configuration, *Configuration C*, when it is used to transport red cell components.

Configuration C is the largest Blood Service shipper configuration and is designed for transporting between 4 and 15 red cells units with cooling provided by frozen coolant packs.

Accordingly, as a precautionary measure, we are ceasing the use of packing *Configuration C* when shipping red cell components to you **as of Tuesday 22 February**. Similarly, we advise that you should not use this configuration if choosing to use Blood Service shippers to transport red cell components between hospitals or other facilities supplied or supported by your organisation.

You may also be familiar with the Blood Service document, *Use of Blood Service Shippers by External Institutions to Transport Blood and Blood Products* (ARCBS-DIS-L5-011), which we provide to support the use of Blood Service shippers by external organisations. References to the use of *Configuration C* have been removed from this document and the revised version is attached for your reference. You may still use the other packing configurations but we would like to specifically draw your attention to requirements for using 4°C chilled coolant packs as part of these alternative configurations and, as is recommended, for providing additional temperature ballast when transporting fewer red cell units than the minimum number stated.

The removal of packing *Configuration C* may consequently increase the number of shippers you receive with each order or how you use Blood Service shippers to transport red cell components within your organisation.

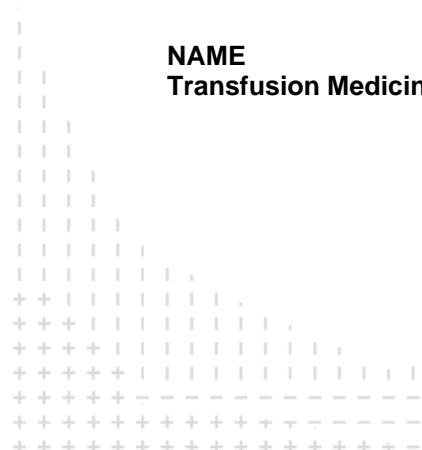
We greatly appreciate your assistance and patience as we work through this issue and would like to work with you to ensure that any impact is minimised.

If you have any questions or other feedback, please feel free to contact your local Blood Service *Inventory & Distribution or Transfusion Medicine Services* team (<insert local contact details>).

Yours sincerely,

NAME
Transfusion Medicine Scientist

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Inventory & Distribution Manager



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