
INFORMATION ONLY

Important Information Regarding Changes to the Expiry Date of Irradiated Red Blood Cells
Customer Letter # 2017-29

2017-07-11

Dear Customer:

In follow-up to Customer Letter 2017-05, Important *Information Regarding Changes to the Expiry Date of Irradiated Red Blood Cells*:

The implementation date for the expiry date change for RBC irradiated at Canadian Blood Services is 2017-08-14.

In addition, there is a further change to Canadian Blood Services' internal criteria for the selection of Red Blood Cells (RBC) units for irradiation.

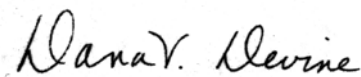
Due to configuration of the Canadian Blood Services Laboratory Information System, RBC units selected for irradiation will be ≤ 14 days from collection (not ≤ 28 days from collection as previously indicated in Customer Letter 2017-05). This change will now align Canadian Blood Services with the British Committee for Standards in Haematology, which states that RBC may be irradiated at any time up to 14 days after collection, and thereafter may be stored for a further 14 days.

The expiry date change for RBC irradiated at Canadian Blood Services will remain as indicated in Customer Letter 2017-05, which will be 14 days from irradiation or 28 days after collection whichever is sooner.

The Red Blood Cells Circular of Information for the Use of Human Blood Components – Table 4: Modified Components will be changed as identified in Customer Letter 2017-05.

This customer letter can also be viewed at www.blood.ca in the “Hospitals” 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,



Dana Devine, Ph.D.
Chief Medical & Scientific Officer