



**Canadian
Blood
Services**

BLOOD
PLASMA
STEM CELLS
ORGANS
& TISSUES

1800 Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa ON
K1G 4J5
Canada

INFORMATION ONLY

Partnering to Improve Red Blood Cell Utilization

Customer Letter # 2022-13

2022-06-09

Dear Colleagues:

We are very pleased to provide an update regarding the Canadian Blood Services and Choosing Wisely Canada's Using Blood Wisely Campaign, previously shared in customer letter [2020-40](#). Using Blood Wisely is a pan-Canadian initiative to reduce the unnecessary transfusion of red blood cells (RBCs) and to engage hospitals in blood stewardship.

Since its launch in September 2020, 215 hospitals from across the country have signed on and have committed to optimizing their RBC utilization practices. These hospitals account for 70% of all blood transfused in Canada (not including Quebec). By doing monthly audits on their single unit transfusions and transfusions with a hemoglobin of less than 80 g/L, hospitals are checking themselves against national appropriateness benchmarks, and when necessary, implementing quality improvement initiatives to optimize their RBC utilization. Hospitals that meet benchmarks and maintain them for at least 4 months are then qualified to receive a Using Blood Wisely hospital designation. To-date 95 hospitals have received this designation. We'd like to acknowledge and commend the hospitals who are participating in the program and congratulate those who've received designation.

For more information about Using Blood Wisely, the audit process and quality improvement tools, or to participate in/sign-up for the campaign if you have not already done so, please visit the Using Blood Wisely website www.usingbloodwisely.ca.

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 "Hospitals 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,

Tanya Petraszko
Senior Medical Director, Medical Laboratories and Stem Cell Services