



Network of Rare Blood Disorder
Organizations
Réseau des Associations Vouées
aux Troubles Sanguins Rares

April 14, 2020

Mr. Mark Spidel
Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness
Government of Prince Edward Island
Shaw Building
95-105 Rochford Street
Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7N8

Dear Deputy Minister Spidel,

We are writing to you in your capacity as Deputy Minister of Health for the lead province in the blood file and on behalf of patients who use home-based plasma protein products and their alternatives. We are requesting that you instruct hospital blood banks and Canadian Blood Services to immediately set up a home delivery service for vulnerable patients for the remainder of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Network of Rare Blood Disorder Organizations (NRBDO) previously wrote to Canadian Blood Services (March 19 letter, attached) and to the National Advisory Committee (March 31 letter, attached) with our proposal. While we understand that the National Emergency Blood Management Committee (NEBMC) has discussed this, we have yet to receive a satisfactory answer. We are now appealing to you.

In the meantime, on April 1, Héma-Québec and Quebec hospital blood banks set up a home delivery service based on one of the models proposed by NRBDO, using pharmacy delivery services from blood banks. Another option to consider is for the packages to be prepared by CBS personnel and sent from their locations with prescription, ordering and tracking to follow the normal pathways; only the product itself would follow a different route.

We continue to believe that such a service is necessary not only in Quebec but in the rest of Canada as well. It would:

- respect public health guidance on physical distancing and staying at home;
- lower the risk of COVID-19 in vulnerable patients (those who are immuno-compromised, have other underlying medical conditions that put them at higher risk if infected, are elderly or who must take public transportation to pick up supplies);
- reduce the number of visitors to hospitals, thereby reducing the risk of disease transmission to both patients and health care workers;
- better manage inventories and avoid shortages by avoiding the need for large stocks of these products in the home.

Currently, approximately 6,000 patients with immune deficiencies, bleeding disorders and hereditary angioedema pick up their inventories of plasma protein products every month from clinics and blood banks supplied by CBS. While not all would require home delivery, a very large number of visits to hospitals could be avoided each month at reasonable cost.

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At a time when public health authorities are exhorting Canadians to stay home to reduce transmission, and authorities are making herculean efforts to protect health care providers from exposure, we believe it feasible and necessary to set up a home delivery service in the coming days.

Sincerely,



Erin Harder
Acting Chair
Network of Rare Blood Disorder Organizations (NRBDO)

Cc: Provincial/Territorial Deputy Ministers of Health
Sylvain Grenier, Director – Plasma Protein Products Formulary Program, Canadian Blood Services
Dr. Oksana Prokopchuk-Gauk, Chair, National Advisory Committee