



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

March 31, 2020

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Dr. Prokopchuk-Gauk, M. Grenier,

We are writing to reiterate our request, first communicated to you on March 19, to provide home delivery service of plasma protein products to vulnerable patients. We continue to believe that such a service is necessary. It would:

- respect public health guidance on social distancing;
- 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 or are elderly);
- reduce the number of visitors to hospitals, thereby reducing the risk of disease transmission to both patients and health care workers;
- better manage inventories by avoiding the need for large stocks of these products in the home.

On March 30, Héma-Québec issued a communiqué (attached) to blood banks and treatment centres announcing that a home delivery service for plasma protein products would start on April 1. Eligible patients include those who:

- are immuno-compromised;
- have other underlying medical conditions that put them at increased risk for COVID-19;
- are over 70 years of age or older;
- would need to rely on public transportation to pick up product.

We urge blood services in the rest of Canada to follow Héma-Québec's lead by distributing to homes directly from CBS facilities or from blood banks, using an accredited pharmacy delivery service. This service would be temporary and last for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada. While not a universal service for all home therapy patients, we feel the solution announced in Quebec is a reasonable one that achieves the most important goals of health protection for vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Erin Harder'.

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

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