

October 24, 2018

Dr. Jennifer Fesser, Chair  
National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products  
chair@nacblood.ca

Dear Dr. Fesser,

The Network of Rare Blood Disorder Organizations (NRBDO) wishes to thank the National Advisory Committee for listening to our concerns regarding the secondary restrictions on the use of Solvent Detergent Treated Plasma (SDP).

As you prepare to take up this issue at your meeting this fall, we wanted to reiterate our objections to the secondary restrictions, particularly as they relate to the treatment of Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP):

- Fresh/Frozen Plasma is known to cause adverse reactions in up to 88% of Canadian TTP patients during their plasma exchange therapy, leading to further medical interventions and lengthened hospital stays.
- The current process to access SDP (request forms from physicians to CBS, product kept at the warehouse vs in the hospitals) are proving too effective in limiting use of this safer treatment option.
- SDP is widely recognized as safer and overall cost-effective, and therefore mandated in much of Europe for large-volume use.

It is our position that in treatment of patients who require high volumes of plasma, such as TTP and factor deficiencies for which no concentrate is available, the safest available plasma product, which currently is Solvent Detergent Treated Plasma, must be provided. This is also in line with the recommendations of the Canadian Apheresis Group (CAG). As such, we respectfully request the removal of the secondary restrictions in the use of SDP, and the removal of the measures put in place to keep SDP from being stocked in hospitals. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gergana Sandeva  
Chair  
Network of Rare Blood Disorder Organizations (NRBDO) /  
Réseau des Associations Vouées aux Troubles Sanguins Rares (RAVTSR)