



MEMO

TO: BLOOD BANK SUPERVISOR and LAB DIRECTOR

FROM: DR. ELPIDIO PENA, Medical Director and Acting CEO *ELP* → *D* 8/12/08
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SUBJECT: Update – Steps taken by KBC to mitigate TRALI

DATE: 8/11/2008

Blood Bank Supervisor and Lab Director:

Today's blood supply is the safest it has ever been, the risk of transfusion transmitted infections is very low, but as with any therapeutic intervention, transfusions are not totally risk-free. The mission of Kentucky Blood Center (KBC) is to offer the safest blood supply to the community we serve and, as part of our commitment to safety, we follow recommendations and regulations from organization like the AABB.

Last year the AABB recommended taking steps to mitigate the incidence of **Transfusion-Related Acute Lung Injury (TRALI)**. TRALI is an acute transfusion reaction believed to be cause by interaction of donor's anti-HLA and anti-granulocyte antibodies with the white blood cells in the recipient. Patients experience respiratory distress, fever, hypotension and typical chest x-ray changes within six hour of the transfusion. It is known that the antibodies related to TRALI are most commonly found in females. For that reason the AABB recommended to limit the transfusion of Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP) collected from females.

- **On November 1, 2007, Kentucky Blood Center, in its commitment to patient safety, decided to follow the AABB recommendation and use only plasma collected from males for transfusion.**
- **By June 1, 2008, the Fresh Frozen Plasma inventory of Kentucky Blood Center is from male plasma only.**

TRALI UPDATE

Other accrediting agencies, like the College of American Pathologist (CAP) require hospitals to develop a plan to reduce the risk of TRALI. KBC's step of producing FFP from males only is only one of the elements on the hospital plan. Other measures for the hospital to consider to mitigate TRALI include:

1. Education of the physician, nursing and laboratory staff in the recognition of the sign and symptoms of TRALI
2. Good blood management practices avoid the unnecessary transfusions of plasma containing products
3. Tracking and trending of transfusion reaction to look for those with symptoms of TRALI.

The medical staff of Kentucky Blood Center is available to help our hospital customers with education on these issues. Please contact KBC's Hospital Services Director, Chip Ruble at 859-519-3766 for more information.