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**INFORMATION ONLY**

Revision to the IgA/Anti-IgA Patient Request Form  
Customer Letter # 2018-38

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2018-09-24

Dear Colleagues:

The process for ordering IgA/Anti-IgA has changed because of changes to the laboratories providing services for IgA and Anti-IgA testing. Canadian Blood Services will provide Anti-IgA antibody testing for patients with anaphylactic/anaphylactoid transfusion reactions and/or for future transfusion recipients when patient is known to be IgA deficient/low. Information regarding IgA deficiency and implications for transfusion can be found at: <https://profedu.blood.ca/en/transfusion/publications/iga-deficiency>. This link will lead you to an article summarizing the frequency of IgA deficiency and the recommended actions if your patient is known to be IgA deficient and requires a transfusion.

The order form/requisition titled Patient Request for IgA/Anti-IgA Testing has been modified to reflect the changes in laboratory testing. Changes include:

- The title “Patient Request for IgA/Anti-IgA Testing” has been changed to “Patient Request for Anti-IgA Testing”.
- A field/space for IgA level, if known, has been added to the form. This will allow us to test for antibodies in only those patients confirmed deficient for IgA.
- A field directing where the results should be sent has been added to the form (‘Fax Results To’)

This is also a reminder to complete the field/space for the date of planned transfusion if known. This will allow us to expedite testing and seek IgA deficient blood donors or blood products for patient support, if required.

Please share a copy of this customer letter with relevant physicians at your hospital who may require this information

This customer letter along with the Patient Request for Anti-IgA Testing form can also be viewed at [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca) in the “Hospitals” 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,



Isra Levy, MD  
Vice President, Medical Affairs and Innovation