



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Department of Health and Community Services
Provincial Blood Coordinating Program

CMV NEGATIVE BLOOD COMPONENTS	NLBPCP-019
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Overview

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a white blood cell-associated herpes virus that is seroprevalent in about 40 to 80 percent of blood donors. Transmission occurs via direct contact with blood or bodily secretions. Current prestorage leukocyte reduction techniques have dramatically reduced the risk of transfusion transmitted CMV infections therefore the National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products has endorsed CMV seronegative only be for a very small high-risk population.

Policy

1. CMV IgG seronegative components are indicated only for intrauterine transfusions.
2. CMV safe (leukoreduced) and CMV IgG seronegative products are to be considered equivalent EXCEPT for intrauterine transfusion.

Key Words

CMV, Cytomegalovirus

References

- Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine. (2022). *Standards for hospital transfusion services*. (Version 5.0). Markham, ON: Author.
- Canadian Standards Association. (2020). *Blood and blood components*, Z902-20. Mississauga, ON: Author.
- National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products. (2017) *NAC statement regarding appropriateness of use of Cytomegalovirus (CMV) seronegative vs CMV safe product*. Available at <http://www.nacblood.ca/resources/guidelines/CMV.html>.