



Carter BloodCare

We save lives by making transfusion possible.

To: Transfusion Services Managers

From: Hospital Relations

William Crews, MD
Medical Director of Laboratory Services, Carter BloodCare

Date: January 11, 2016

Re: Update Daratumumab (DARZALEX)

Daratumumab (DARZALEX) is a human anti-CD38 monoclonal antibody recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of multiple myeloma. Daratumumab binds to CD38, a protein expressed by red blood cells, causing interference with blood bank compatibility tests, including antibody screening and crossmatching. Patients undergoing treatment may exhibit compatibility interference for up to six months following discontinuation of daratumumab.

To ensure patients receive timely transfusions, we encourage blood banks to work closely with oncology departments and treating physicians to establish a daratumumab *pretreatment* protocol. Communication to the blood bank **PRIOR** to the patient beginning daratumumab therapy is important to ensure a baseline blood type, antibody screen and red blood cell phenotype or genotype testing can be performed. Once the patient begins daratumumab therapy, communication should be maintained between the ordering physician and the blood bank to mitigate interference each time compatibility testing is needed.

For more information on specific tests performed by the reference laboratory when specimens are obtained from patients known to be receiving daratumumab, please call 817-412-5740 or email wcrews@carterbloodcare.org.