



To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: May 27, 2020
Re: Updates to the COVID-19 Expanded Access Protocol

Recently, the COVID-19 expanded access protocol was updated to remove reference to ABO throughout the protocol and defined preference of ABO compatibility - *ABO compatible convalescent plasma will be transfused preferentially. In the absence of ABO compatible plasma, patients may receive as a second choice either group A plasma or low titer anti-A Group O plasma, as available.*

Please be advised that we will fill your COVID-19 convalescent plasma request with group specific or ABO compatible plasma. If there is no available ABO compatible plasma in inventory, we will offer group A plasma. At this time, we are *not* performing anti-A titers on group O plasma. This modification is in response to the updated COVID-19 expanded access protocol.

Additionally, the dose justification of volume of convalescent plasma has been modified - *Initial data available from studies using COVID-19 convalescent plasma for the treatment of individuals with severe or life-threatening disease indicate that a single dose of 200 mL showed potential efficacy. The volume of plasma to be transfused should be based upon patient's weight and clinical comorbidities. The volume of plasma to be transfused should be at least one unit but may be greater if the treating clinician concludes a larger volume is appropriate. Transfusions may occur at any time throughout the hospitalization including multiple doses on non-sequential days. In general, it is expected that most patients will receive two units or less, but this language is not intended to restrict the use of convalescent plasma in larger quantities when the treating physician determines that such volumes and/or re-treatment are clinically justified.*

Please be advised that you may order multiple units per patient. In an effort to be fair and consistent, Carter BloodCare will follow these guidelines when filling requests for more than one unit of convalescent plasma per patient.

- The order will initially be filled by dispensing one unit.
- Any additional units on the order will be placed on back order and every effort made to fill the order within 24 hours or as inventory is available.

You can access the protocol in its entirety at <https://www.uscovidplasma.org>.