

Vein to Vein

A Joint Collaboration with the Calgary Health Region



In 2001, the Policy Advisory Committee on Blood Services in Alberta made a recommendation to the Minister of Health and Wellness that Transfusion Safety Offices be established in all health regions. As a result of a joint initiative by Calgary Health Region and Calgary Laboratory Services, a Regional Transfusion Safety office was established July 2007.

The Transfusion Safety Office is staffed by a Transfusion Medicine Laboratory Technologist from Calgary Laboratory Services, and by a Registered Nurse and a Data Analyst from the Calgary Health Region. They will be tasked with:

- Ensuring standards are being followed “Vein to Vein” (from blood sample collection to transfusion of the blood product)
 - Advising stakeholders during policy and procedure development/revision
 - Partnering with appropriate groups to develop educational strategies
- Implementing evaluation strategies for blood conservation
- Consulting and reporting with Clinical Services regarding blood product utilization and trends.
- Conducting audits to promote patient safety and design risk mitigation strategies
- Investigating adverse events related to the transfusion process.

In addition to serving as an educational resource, this office will create an environment for research opportunities in relation to transfusion safety related initiatives.

This united approach between the laboratory and hospitals, ensures the most appropriate blood product is being provided in the safest manner to all people in the Calgary Health Region.