

March 26, 2024

TRANSFUSION MEDICINE

## Irradiation Guidelines for Low Birth-weight Infants

Date effective: April 1, 2024

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### Background Information:

Irradiation of blood and blood components for patients within Manitoba is guided by the National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products (NAC). Recently, there was a change in the [Guidelines and Recommendations](#) made by NAC containing numerous clinical recommendations.

### Change in Test Procedure:

- The routine transfusion of irradiated red cells for very low birth-weight infants (less than 1500g at birth) is no longer recommended. The current Shared Health policy to supply irradiated by products to all new born infants will continue (up to day 10), by which time the results of universal tests for congenital immunodeficiency will be available.

### Patient Impact and System Improvements:

- Reduced time to receive red cells for transfusion for low birth-weight infants

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