



March 18, 2021

Dear Medical Community,

Blood Bank of Alaska (BBA) would like to thank you for your caring service during this pandemic. COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019) has affected each of us in various ways and we greatly appreciate the work that you are doing on the front lines to treat patients.

We have been carefully following updates from the FDA regarding the use of COVID-19 convalescent plasma (CCP) to treat COVID-19 patients. On August 23rd, 2020, the FDA announced an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for investigational CCP for the treatment of COVID-19 in hospitalized patients. This EUA, along with the updated FDA guidance document released on November 16th, 2020 provides further recommendations on the collection of CCP (1). The FDA has subsequently reissued both the EUA and guidance document with revisions.

On February 4th, 2021, the EUA was updated to only authorize the use of high titer CCP for the treatment of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 who are early in the disease course or who have impaired humoral immunity. CCP units collected by BBA on November 16th, 2020 or later are compliant under the EUA, however, imported units may not be.

BBA ended the collection of CCP on March 17, 2021. While we are no longer accepting applications or scheduling new appointments to donate this product, CCP units are still available for distribution.

Convalescent Plasma Resources for Providers

The following resources pertain only to the FDA's EUA. They do not apply to imported convalescent plasma units that are non-compliant under the EUA.

- FDA's Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for emergency use of COVID-19 convalescent plasma for the treatment of hospitalized patients with Coronavirus Disease 2019:
<https://www.fda.gov/media/141477/download>
- Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers:
<https://www.fda.gov/media/141478/download>
- Fact Sheet for Patients and Parents/Caregivers:
<https://www.fda.gov/media/141479/download>

Thank you for your help and dedicated patient care.

Sincerely,

Megan Ritter, M.D.
Medical Director
Blood Bank of Alaska

907-222-5674 mritter@bbak.org

References:

1. **FDA: Investigational COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma – Guidance for Industry:**
<https://www.fda.gov/media/136798/download>



Blood Bank of Alaska
Helping Alaska patients in need

1215 Airport Heights Dr. • Anchorage, AK 99508 • Tel: 907-222-5600 • Fax: 907-222-5683 • www.bloodbankofalaska.org

2. [FDA: Recommendations for Investigational COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma:](https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/investigational-new-drug-ind-or-device-exemption-ide-process-cber/recommendations-investigational-covid-19-convalescent-plasma)
<https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/investigational-new-drug-ind-or-device-exemption-ide-process-cber/recommendations-investigational-covid-19-convalescent-plasma>