

UPDATED: Changes to adult cryoprecipitate doses: Implications for Major Haemorrhage Protocols



N SAFETY NOTICE 004/26

Issue date:	26/02/2026
Content reviewed by:	NSW Blood Management Clinical Advisory Committee NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation Anaesthesia Perioperative Care Network
Distributed to:	Chief Executives; Directors of Clinical Governance; Director, Regulation and Compliance Unit
KEY MESSAGE:	There is a risk of fibrinogen concentrate overdose related to the increased concentration in each bag of cryoprecipitate. Facilities are to review and ensure alignment of major haemorrhage protocols and related viscoelastic haemostatic assay guidance with the recommendations in this Safety Notice.
ACTION REQUIRED BY:	Clinicians and pathology providers
REQUIRED ACTION:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distribute this safety notice to all relevant staff, committees and departments where cryoprecipitate is held, prescribed and administered, and include this Safety Notice in relevant handovers and safety huddles. 2. Undertake a local risk assessment and incorporate the below recommendations to manage this transition. 3. Ensure a system is in place to document actions taken in response to this Safety Notice. 4. Escalate any concerns to: CEC-BloodWatch@health.nsw.gov.au 5. Report any incidents associated with cryoprecipitate doses via the local incident management system (e.g., ims+). 6. Confirm receipt and distribution of this Safety Notice within 7 days to: <u>CEC-BloodWatch@health.nsw.gov.au</u>
DEADLINE:	N/A
We recommend you also inform:	<p>Directors, Managers and Staff of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood Management Committees • Surgical, Anaesthetics, and Emergency Departments • Nursing/Midwifery Services • Medical Services • Pathology Transfusion Services
Website:	https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/sabs/Pages/default.aspx http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au/quality/sabs/index.html
Review date:	31 March 2027

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What is updated in this Safety Broadcast from SN:032/24

Australian Red Cross Lifeblood (Lifeblood) advises that the recommended adult fibrinogen dose (3-4g) can be achieved by using 9 units of whole or split apheresis cryoprecipitate units.

All sites are required to review all Major Haemorrhage Protocols (MHP), including all Viscoelastic Haemostatic Assays (VHA) guided MHPs.

Situation

Fibrinogen concentration of cryoprecipitate (split apheresis and whole blood derived) is now 372mg (+/- 114mg) per unit. Some facilities have not amended MHPs and related VHA algorithms to account for this increased concentration.

Some facility MHPs still specify a standard dose of 10 units of cryoprecipitate instead of 9 units.

There is variation across NSW and within some facilities, in the number of cryoprecipitate units recommended within VHA algorithms that guide MHPs.

Recent monitoring shows a sustained increase in cryoprecipitate use, with associated avoidable wastage.

Background

Bag configuration changes introduced in January 2025 prompted Safety Notice 032/24, which addressed underdosing concerns related to apheresis units.

No issues related to underdosing have been identified.

Assessment

MHPs and related VHA guidance, that have not been amended to reflect the higher fibrinogen concentration in each bag of cryoprecipitate, pose the following risks:

- Overdosing, which may increase the risk of thrombosis
- Delay of care related to time to prepare and administer additional units
- Avoidable wastage of cryoprecipitate
- Poor stewardship of blood components, contributing to low value care (cost per unit \$142.45 – \$196.18)²

Recommendations

All facilities must review and if required, update MHPs, including VHA guidance to ensure:

1. The standard adult cryoprecipitate dose of 9 units is used, not 10.
2. VHA guided cryoprecipitate algorithms align with the following dosing recommendations in *Table 1*.

N SN: 004/26**Table 1**

Dose of fibrinogen concentrate	Equivalent cryoprecipitate units
1g	3
2g	6
3g	9
4g	12
5g	15
6g	18

Further information

Further Information is available from Lifeblood

<https://www.lifeblood.com.au/health-professionals/products/blood-components/cryoprecipitate>

References:

1. National Blood Authority, 2023. [Patient Blood Management Guidelines for adults with critical bleeding](#)
2. [National Blood Authority: National Price list](#)