Frequently Asked Questions – COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma (CP)

1. **Is CP available in all ABO blood groups?**
   Australian Red Cross Lifeblood is collecting COVID-19 convalescent plasma (CP) from eligible donors of all ABO blood groups. The blood group availability of transfusible product may change from day to day. If we cannot supply the blood group requested, we will call you to discuss alternatives. Compatibility requirements for CP are the same as for fresh frozen plasma. Refer to the COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Product Information Sheet – Attachment 1.

2. **Is CP available for supply in all states and territories?**
   CP is available for supply to all states and territories. Lifeblood will transfer product between states as needed.

3. **What is the cost of CP? Who will pay for the CP?**
   CP will be supplied by Lifeblood as per the current distribution arrangements for all other fresh blood components. Queries relating to individual jurisdictional devolved blood budget arrangements should be directed to your local health department.

4. **Can I order CP via BloodNet?**
   Not at this stage. You must use the manual order form provided. Complete all relevant sections and email to your local Lifeblood Processing Centre. Please ensure that you have provided the study participant number and date and time you require the CP to be despatched from Lifeblood. See Attachment 2.

5. **I would like to pre-populate fields on the manual order form. Can I have an editable copy?**
   Yes. An editable version of the form is provided. See Attachment 3.

6. **Can I hold a small inventory of CP?**
   No. Due to limited availability of CP, we are issuing this product on a per patient basis only. The individual "study participant number" must be included when submitting an order.

   It should be noted that the REMAP-CAP and ASCOT clinical trials require that 2 doses of CP be transfused within 48 hours of randomisation, with a minimum of 12 hours between the 2 doses.

7. **What is the format of the study participant number?**
   The study participant number must be in the following format depending on the trial:

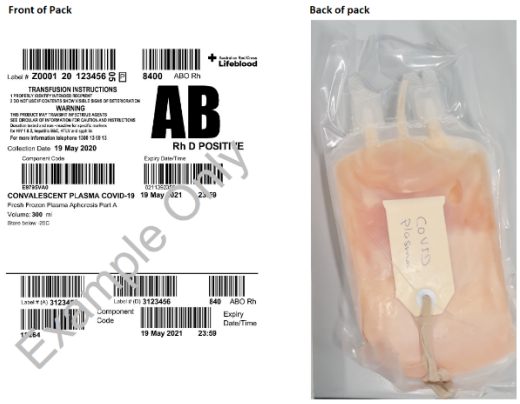
   - REMAP-CAP is 02XXX00001, where XXX is the site number assigned by the ANZIC-RC/REMAP-CAP, followed by a 5 digit participant number.

   - ASCOT is ASC-_ _ _-00001, where _ _ _ is the 3-letter site code, followed by a 5 digit participant number.

8. **Will the CP be labelled with the study participant number?**
   No. The study participant number can be found on the issue note that comes with the CP.

   "CONVALESCENT PLASMA COVID-19" is printed on the release label on the front of the unit.

   In addition, the CP has a luggage label, "COVID-19", attached inside the vacuum pack as pictured below.



9. **How do I receipt CP in my lab?**
   You can receipt CP through BloodNet as per any other order. You can enter the product in your laboratory information system using the provided barcodes. See Attachment 4.

   Any specific queries relating to the functionality of BloodNet and CP should be directed to the National Blood Authority (email support@blood.gov.au or call 13 000 BLOOD (13 000 25663)).

10. **What is the expiry time for thawed CP?**
    CP should be transfused as soon as possible after thawing. If immediate transfusion is not possible, thawed CP can be stored between 2°C to 6°C for up to 24 hours, after which it should be discarded.

11. **Can CP be converted to Extended Life Plasma (ELP)?**
    CP should not be converted to ELP. CP should be transfused as soon as possible after thawing. If immediate transfusion is not possible, thawed CP can be stored between 2°C to 6°C for up to 24 hours, after which it should be discarded.

12. **If necessary, will I be able to discard CP on BloodNet?**
    Yes. Once receipted in BloodNet, CP can be discarded as per any other product.

13. **What do I do with frozen CP units that are no longer required for the study participant they were ordered for?**
    Unused frozen CP can only be re-allocated to another study participant. Please advise Lifeblood of this reallocation by submitting an order form with the new study participant number. In the comment section, list the ISBT128 donation number(s) of the CP in your inventory allocated to the new study participant.

14. Can pregnant women/children and babies have CP?

CP must only be used in the approved clinical trials. Queries relating to participant eligibility should be directed to the relevant trial co-ordinator(s), the contact details of which are provided in Q15 below.

15. Where can I find more information about the trials?

- **ASCOT for hospitalised patients with COVID-19**
  The Australasian COVID-19 Trial (ASCOT) is a nationwide, randomised trial that is centrally co-ordinated from the Doherty Institute and led by Associate Professor Steven Tong and the Australian Society for Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Network (ASID-CRN).
  Trial sites: https://www.ascot-trial.edu.au/pages/study-sites
  Further information: https://www.ascot-trial.edu.au/
  Contact information: ascot-team@unimelb.edu.au

- **REMAP-CAP trial for critically ill patients with COVID-19**
  The Randomised, Embedded, Multifactorial Adaptive Platform Trial for Community-Acquired Pneumonia (REMAP-CAP) trial is an international trial including sites across Australia. The Australian participation is led by Professor Steve Webb and the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre (ANZIC-RC).
  Trial sites: https://www.remapcap.org/participating-sites
  Further information: https://www.remapcap.org/
  Contact information: info@remapcap.org

Attachments:

1. *COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Product Information Sheet*
2. *Request for COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma*
3. *Request for COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma – editable version*
4. *COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Product Codes and Barcodes*

Prepared by Australian Red Cross Lifeblood
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