

## Zika virus testing of all blood components

### **WHAT'S NEW?**

Bloodworks, the supplier of blood for all PeaceHealth hospitals, has begun testing all blood products for Zika virus. Zika is a virus, primarily transmitted by mosquitos, that is being reported throughout South and Central America and is making its way into North America. Like other bloodborne viruses, Zika can also be transmitted via intrauterine/perinatal, sexual contact, and blood transfusion. In order to protect the safety of the blood supply, additional travel deferrals have been in place, which have contributed to the serious blood shortages seen over the summer.

In accordance with FDA guidance, Bloodworks has begun testing all blood donations for Zika virus using ID-NAT (individual donation nucleic acid test) under an approved Investigational New Drug application until a licensed test is available. This test is highly sensitive, and has a 95% limit of detection of less than 10 copies/mL.

Blood units testing negative will be labeled with an additional statement on the blood product bag: “Negative for Zika virus by Investigational NAT.”

Testing began on units collected November 9, 2016; however, we will not see tested units until current inventory is used or expired.

### **WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?**

Be aware of label changes and be prepared to address questions or concerns that patients may have.

### **QUESTIONS?**

Local Blood Bank leadership:

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