

Date: August 30, 2021
To: Director of Clinical Laboratories Director of Transfusion Services
From: JD Pettyjohn, Chief Operating Officer
Re: Availability of Convalescent Plasma Products

LifeSouth has been providing Convalescent Plasma throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to offer these products as needed. With increasing rates of COVID-19 infections across the LifeSouth service area, there has been a significant increase in demand for Convalescent Plasma. Currently, LifeSouth and blood centers across the nation are experiencing significant shortages of Convalescent Plasma due to increased demand and FDA changes to donor eligibility associated with vaccination status. ***Due to shortages of Convalescent Plasma, LifeSouth is filling patient specific orders ahead of requests for stock.*** As availability of convalescent plasma improves, LifeSouth will resume filling requests for stock.

What is Convalescent Plasma

Convalescent plasma is plasma that comes from people who have recovered from an infection, like the coronavirus. This plasma may contain antibodies against the virus. Antibodies are proteins that your immune system makes after you have had an infection, that can neutralize or kill the virus and help you to recover. Convalescent plasma may be a treatment option for patients with COVID-19.

Does LifeSouth test CCP units for antibodies?

Yes. LifeSouth uses a combination of total antibody screening and IgG testing on all CCP products to confirm high titer status of each unit.

How should I order CCP units?

Continue to order CCP components in the usual manner. Due to current shortages of this product LifeSouth is filling patient specific orders ahead of stock orders.

Will there be changes to CCP pricing?

No, LifeSouth fees for CCP remain the same as previously billed. However, BARDA funded inventories have been exhausted. Therefore, as of August 16th, CCP will be invoiced without a corresponding BARDA credit as funding is no longer available. If BARDA reinstates funding for CCP, or LifeSouth provides a CCP unit that was reimbursed by BARDA, LifeSouth will notify you and make necessary billing adjustments.

Is CCP FDA-approved now?

No. An EUA is issued when the benefits of a drug or device are thought to outweigh the risks, but full testing and clinical trials required for FDA approval have not been completed.

For questions regarding local availability, please contact your local management team or JD Pettyjohn, Chief Operating Officer at jdpettyjohn@lifesouth.org. For technical assistance regarding transfusion please contact Chris Lough, Vice President of Medical Services at cmlough@lifesouth.org.

