

# LIFESOUTH

Community Blood Centers

**Date:** September 25, 2024  
**Subject:** Discontinuation of Whole Blood Derived AS-3 and CPDA-1 RBCs

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Due to the discontinuation of AS-3 and CPDA-1 whole blood collection kits by Haemonetics, LifeSouth will no longer be able to collect and provide whole blood derived AS-3 and CPDA-1 RBCs in 2025. Please note the following:

- We will have some remaining AS-3 and CPDA-1 collection kits into 2025, but we are uncertain when the supply of these bags will be depleted.
- AS-3 units may still be available from apheresis collections in extremely limited, unpredictable inventory amounts or by special order only. The type of collection equipment required, and small percentage of red blood cell apheresis collections mean that production cannot be scaled up to replace the current inventory of AS-3 units.
- Supply and production limitations prevent LifeSouth from re-implementing CPDA-1 units as a viable alternative to AS-3, given that Fresenius Kabi also plans to discontinue their production of CPDA-1 whole blood collection kits in 2026.
- Advocacy organizations, such as America's Blood Centers and our group purchasing organization, Blood Centers of America, have been informed of the concerns around the discontinuation of these products relating to pediatric transfusions. At this time, no alternative manufacturers or solutions have been identified.

LifeSouth recommends early consultation with your medical teams and formation of a plan around pediatric transfusion practices. AS-1 RBCs have proven safe in all populations, including low volume transfusions ( $\leq 15$  mL/kg) for neonates.<sup>1-3</sup> Conclusive studies have not been published around higher volume transfusions with additive solution RBCs (20-25 mL/kg).

The notification letter from Haemonetics follows this memo. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this change, please feel free to contact me directly at [cmlough@lifesouth.org](mailto:cmlough@lifesouth.org).

Sincerely,



Chris Lough, M.D.  
Vice President of Medical Services  
LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, Inc.

- 1) Jain, R and Jaroz, C. Safety and efficacy of AS-1 red blood cell use in neonates. *Transfusion Apheresis Science* 2001, 24: 111-115.
- 2) Strauss, R et al. AS-1 red cells for neonatal transfusion: a randomized trial assessing donor exposure and safety. *Transfusion* 1996; 36:873-878.
- 3) Strauss, R. Data-driven blood banking practices for neonatal RBC transfusions. *Transfusion* 2000; 40: 1528-1540.