



# CIPO

Canadian Immunodeficiencies Patient Organization

Canadian Blood Services  
Open Board Statement  
June 23rd, 2020

Good morning. Members of the board, Canadian Blood Services executive and staff with us virtually today - thank you for continuing to give us this opportunity and committing to public participation.

On behalf of the Canadian Immunodeficiencies Patient Organization (CIPO) and the patient population we represent, I would like to raise concern for Primary Immunodeficiency patients. This high-risk group has been hard hit through the pandemic, with anxiety and fear elevated. Long-term isolation (with continued isolation recommended ongoing through provincial re-opening) has only heightened difficulties.

The news of an IVIG shortage, with a mandatory reduction of 10% usage, currently being experienced in Quebec, is troubling. This combined with the implementation of an Interim IG Shortage Plan and a drop in global plasma donations has us more than concerned. I am certain that none of us want a repeat of last year's SCIG shortage. PI patients need reassurance. Reassurance that they will have continued access to their treatment of choice.

We call on CBS to ensure uninterrupted access for all immunodeficiency patients across Canada during this pandemic and going forward.

As others have also mentioned today, I would like to briefly mention home delivery. CBS worked in collaboration with patient organizations and their medical advisors to address the risks to patients on home therapy during this pandemic. While there is still much work to be done and many patients' needs are not being met, CBS listened and secured a courier service. Working in this unified approach, for the same shared goal, was a positive experience with CBS. We appreciate your key role in this important national initiative. I would like to thank CBS for their work and support.

We look forward to continued collaboration and partnership in the best interests of immunodeficiency patients.

Whitney Goulstone  
Executive Director