

STATEMENT ON PAID PLASMA PRODUCTS

The Canadian Immunodeficiencies Patient Organization, CIPO, is a registered charity representing patients with Primary Immune Disorders (PI) across Canada.

There are currently and estimated 50,000 people living with PI in Canada. Plasma-derived therapy is the only treatment option currently available, along with antibiotics, to PI patients. Canada is the largest user of IVIg (intravenous plasma treatment) per capita.

As end users of plasma-derived products, key concerns remain the same. These are:

1. The vast majority of PID patients in Canada, are already using plasma-derived product from U.S. paid donors. There has been no problems or issues with these products and the safety regulations in place are considered safe by blood system regulators around the world. Currently, our patients feel safe with their product. We want them to continue in this regard.
2. Not allowing paid plasma donations in Canada will encourage Canada's over-reliance on the U.S for plasma. We are concerned that only 3 of some 30 plasma-derived products used by Canadians are manufactured in whole or in part by plasma collected from unpaid donors by CBS and Héma-Quebec.
3. CIPO understands the fear of the past, but over the last 25 years the plasma industry has developed very well documented and effective procedures to collect and process plasma safely for the donors and the recipients.

We at CIPO will continue to work with Canadian Blood Services and Héma-Quebec to encourage blood and plasma donations and to make the most complete use of all components.

An average PI patient in Canada receives 30g – 40g of plasma product a month. It takes 1 to 2 hours for donors to fill a 0.85L bottle with plasma. 3 x 0.85L bottles plasma will make 10g bottle of plasma product. It takes between 9 and 12 people donating between 9 and 24 hours of time to collect enough plasma to treat one PID patient.