

**Issue: Discontinuation of Haemacel**

Raised by: Memo from the Director of Pharmacy (ASH)

Background: Pharmaceutical company *Aventis Pharma* advised that Haemacel would no longer be supplied in Australia. The Drugs and Therapeutics committee removed Haemacel from the formulary in July 04.

Discussion: There is no evidence from randomised controlled trials that resuscitation with colloids reduces the risk of death, compared to resuscitation with crystalloids, in patients with trauma, burns or following surgery.

As colloids are not associated with an improvement in survival, and as they are more expensive than crystalloids it is hard to see how their continued use in these patients can be justified.

Any crystalloids (namely sodium chloride) or albumin can be used in its place.

Sodium chloride may be a more suitable alternative, because albumin comes in a glass bottle and cannot be squeezed during rapid fluid resuscitation and it's a blood product, so its use must be recorded in the blood register.

Reference to use of Haemacel in the CARPA STM never dictates it as an only option. Where it is noted as a treatment option, crystalloids are equally promoted, and therefore there is no conflict with the 4th edition of the CARPA STM. (This issue has been flagged with the CARPA editorial committee for their further consideration.)

Consultation: NT Drugs and Therapeutics committee
Kieran Behan, Director of Pharmacy, Alice Springs Hospital

References: Roberts I et al. *Colloids versus crystalloids for fluid resuscitation in critically ill patients*. The Cochrane database of systematic reviews 2004, issue 4.

Outcome: Haemacel is no longer available, and therefore will be removed from standard the imprest list.
Crystalloids (namely Sodium Chloride) are to be used in fluid resuscitation.