

# Guidance for transfusing platelets across blood groups

ABO non-identical platelets may be given at times of shortage or in an emergency, where no ABO identical platelets are available. They may also be used when specific requirements are necessary, the blood group is unknown or to prevent wastage due to expiry.

High Titre (HT) negative platelets are available to reduce the risk of haemolysis.

Recipient Group	Group O	Group A	Group B	Group AB	Unknown
1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	O	A	B	AB <sup>⌘</sup>	AB <sup>⌘</sup>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice	A or B	AB <sup>⌘</sup>	AB <sup>⌘</sup>	A* or B*	A* or B*
3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice	AB <sup>⌘</sup>	B* or O* <sup>‡</sup>	A* or O* <sup>‡</sup>	O* <sup>‡</sup>	O* <sup>‡</sup>

For A or B units transfused into an O patient, or when AB is transfused, high-titre (HT) negative is not required.

\*HT negative anti-A and/or anti-B platelets should be selected where available which would lower the risk of haemolysis.

<sup>‡</sup> Group O platelets for non-group O neonates and children should be avoided where possible due to the risk of haemolysis.

<sup>⌘</sup>Due to the population distribution of group AB and its value as a universal plasma donor, stocks may be limited.

### Guidance on D selection and anti-D prophylaxis

D negative platelets should be given to D negative patients where possible, particularly to D negative women of child bearing potential, boys under 18 years and those who already have anti-D antibodies.

D positive may be transfused if D negative unavailable. In the case of women of child-bearing potential, anti-D prophylaxis should be given.

<http://www.b-s-h.org.uk/guidelines/guidelines/transfusion-for-fetuses-neonates-and-older-children>

<http://www.b-s-h.org.uk/guidelines/guidelines/use-of-platelet-transfusions/>

<https://b-s-h.org.uk/media/15687/change-in-major-haemorrhage-guideline-march-2017-word-version-2.pdf>

<https://b-s-h.org.uk/guidelines/guidelines/use-of-anti-d-immunoglobulin-for-the-prevention-of-haemolytic-disease-of-the-fetus-and-newborn/>