The Update for June 2019

Updated Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics Services user guide

The revised H&I Services user guide (INF136/6) is available to download from this website.

Dr Andrea Harmer – National Head of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics

Guidance for transfusing platelets across blood groups

This resource provides guidance for hospital transfusion laboratory staff should they need to transfuse platelets across blood groups and describes the circumstances when this is acceptable practice.

Please note, it replaces the resource 'Appropriate use of platelets across blood groups'.

Jayne Addison - PBM Practitioner

Updated RCI User Guide INF66 version 9

The key changes are:

- Hyperlinks have been added to the index to aid navigation of the document
- Inclusion of RCI routine opening hours
- Information supporting practice when crossmatched red cells are issued as suitable
- Details of how to contact RCI out of hours and alternatives if experiencing difficulty contacting RCI
- Appendix 3 added containing information to assist hospitals providing evidence for ISO15189: 4.5 Referral laboratories
- Hyperlink to address label templates to ensure samples are delivered to RCI to reduce the risk of samples being stored incorrectly or sent to the wrong department thereby causing a delay in testing.

Read the guide

Tess Winfield - RCI Process Improvement Manager

Bedside check animation now available via e-LfH

The pre-administration blood component transfusion bedside check animated video is now available on two platforms:

- YouTube
- E-LfH

Both links are available on the PBM Education page on this website.

Anne Davidson - Education Lead, Patient Blood Management Practitioner Team

Updated hospital profiles on VANESA, Blood Stocks Management Scheme

Following the BSMS Inventory Practice Survey performed earlier this year hospital profiles on VANESA have now been updated. This includes a change to the benchmarking categories available for hospitals.

If your hospital did not complete the survey, then there will no longer be any clinical benchmarking categories available to select.

If you would like to update your hospital profile to include these clinical categories, please contact the BSMS team.

If you have any queries related to the changes made to hospital VANESA profiles, please email bsms@nhsbt.nhs.uk

Clare Denison - BSMS, Lead Specialist

Washed Red Cell haematocrit

In May 2019 we informed you that due to a change in the production method of washed red cells from an automated system to a manual system the mean haematocrit (0.68) of the washed red cell component was currently *higher* than that of standard Red Cells in Additive Solution (0.58) although both are compliant with specification.

We have been undertaking work to reduce the mean haematocrit of Washed Red Cells and bring it more in to line with a standard Red Cell in Additive Solution component. This work has now been completed and may have clinical implications, for example if washed red cell units are used for automated red cell exchanges.

Summary of the component quality monitoring data for the reduced Hct component:

Component	Specification	Mean	SD	-3SD	+3SD
Washed Red Cells	Volume (200-320mL)	277.3	12.8	238.8	315.8
Washed Red Cells	Hb per Unit (>40g)	53.3	3.82	41.9	64.8
Washed Red Cells	HCT (0.5-0.7)	0.60	0.02	0.52	0.67
Red Cells in Additive Solution (Routine)	HCT (0.5-0.7)	0.58	0.03	0.50	0.66

The reduced haematocrit is due to an increase in the volume of SAGM in which the final component is suspended. The new suspension volume is 100mL. The component label will be updated to reflect the new volume on the go live date.

We intend to go live with this new process on Monday 29 July 2019 and our Portfolio of Blood Components and Guidance for their Clinical Use (SPN223) will be amended once there is sufficient quality monitoring data (currently a limited data set).

The mean Hct of Washed Red Cells will now remain at 0.60. Please disseminate this information to Hospital Transfusion Teams and clinicians who undertake red cell exchange transfusions.

Jane Davies - Lead Specialist, Manufacturing Development Team

Register for the Blood Stocks Management Scheme Roadshows 2019

Dates and locations are:

- 16 October - NHSBT Tooting
- 24 October - The Source Academy, Sheffield

The fee is £35 per delegate, including refreshments and lunch.

Register now

Read the flyer, the draft programme for Tooting and Sheffield

Clare Denison - BSMS, Lead Specialist

Change to OBOS wording from 'Platelets in PAS' to 'Platelets in PAS (washed)'

In response to customer feedback, we are changing the wording on OBOS for the component, Platelets Apheresis in Additive Solution – selected on OBOS using 'Platelets in PAS'. This component is a specialist 24 hour shelf life component that requires consultant approval and is commonly referred to as 'washed platelets' because the majority of plasma is removed.

This change to OBOS will help to distinguish this specialist component from the standard platelet component (which contains a mixture of plasma and platelet additive solution).

We are updating the OBOS wording to mitigate against any delay to transfusion that could be caused by inadvertently ordering the wrong component.

From 16 July 2019, the future OBOS wording will be: 'Platelets in PAS (washed)' and 'Platelets in PAS Irradiated (washed)'

The standard platelet component will remain on OBOS simply as: 'Platelets' or 'Platelets Irradiated'.

We will compliment this change with an update to the component portfolio to include common terminology 'washed platelets' in the additional information section for this component (pages 23-24).

We hope this change will serve to add clarity. Please do not hesitate to contact your Customer Services manager if you have any further feedback on this change.

Michelle Ray - Lead Specialist

The Update is produced each month by Commercial and Customer Services on behalf of NHS Blood and Transplant
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