

19 June 2020

Transition to domestic plasma - update and clarification

Dear Colleague,

We would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on the final stages of work to transition the remainder of our plasma components to UK plasma self-sufficiency. We also want to provide clarification on the content of earlier communications. Following feedback from hospital colleagues, we have been advised that this may have been unclear for which, on behalf of NHSBT, we offer our apologies.

NHSBT is now in the final stages of developing the new UK-sourced FFP and cryoprecipitate components for neonates and infants. It is envisaged that these components will start being issued to hospitals around August 2020. As we work to run-down our imported plasma stocks, we will be issuing these components as a “mixed inventory” alongside the current equivalent methylene blue (MB) treated non-UK components. Please note that this date is tentative and may be subject to change. We commit to keeping you updated regarding this.

These new UK-sourced components have specifications suitable for neonates and infants under 1 year of age: manufactured from known donors, paediatric antibody specification (PANTS) tested and High Titre (anti A and anti B) antibody negative. These specifications are described at sections 7.35 and 7.36 in JPAC’s ‘Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services’. The component labels will say ‘for neonatal use’ due to space constraints. Older recipients should receive standard UK FFP and cryoprecipitate.

Further details on the new UK-sourced neonatal/infant specification components will be available in the updated NHSBT component portfolio, and hospitals will be provided with component barcodes for these components prior to launch. Addenda to the BSH guidelines on use of FFP and cryoprecipitate, and on transfusion for fetuses, neonates and older children will shortly be posted on the BSH website (<https://b-s-h.org.uk/guidelines/>).

In the interim, and until we issue you with new component barcodes as we prepare to launch neonatal/infant specification UK FFP and cryoprecipitate, NHSBT will continue to fulfil all requests for the following plasma components for neonates and infants under 1 year with the existing components as follows:

- where “Fresh Frozen Plasma, LD For Neonatal Use” is selected in OBOS, we will continue to fulfil orders with the existing small volume ‘neonatal’ non-UK MB FFP component
- where “Cryoprecipitate, LD For Neonatal Use” is selected in OBOS, we will continue to fulfil orders with the existing single unit non-UK MB cryoprecipitate component.

Blood and Transplant

We are grateful to hospital colleagues for their patience during this transition to domestic plasma self-sufficiency and again apologise if our communication has been inconsistent or unclear.

If you have any queries on this email or relating to any aspects of the plasma transition, please contact your local NHSBT Customer Service Manager in the first instance.

Kind regards,

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