



Blood and Transplant

The Update for June 2020

Revised apheresis platelets myth buster poster

The platelets myth buster [poster](#) has been revised to reflect the [SaBTO recommendations](#), removing the requirement for patients born on or after 1 January 1996 to receive apheresis (single donor) platelets whenever possible.

The poster is available on the [platelet resources](#) web page.

Andrea Marshall - Patient Blood Management Development Manager on behalf of the Platelet Action Group

Updated NBTC platelet shortage plan June 2020

The updated [plan](#) has minor amendments which reflect a generic approach to component modification and working within Pathology Networks.

The plan is designed to ensure that hospitals and ourselves can work within a consistent, integrated framework across England to provide patients with equal access to available units of platelets based on clinical need and operates similarly to the red cell shortage plan with three phases dependent on NHSBT stock levels - green, amber and red. Actions listed in the green phase are focused on preparation of arrangements for shortages and implementing appropriate use recommendations.

Dr F Chowdhury / Dr H Doughty - Consultant Haematologists

Please inform your ICT department: Sp-ICE only works using Internet Explorer

We have received reports of NHS Trusts planning to discontinue using the Internet Explorer web browser and replace with the Edge browser.

Sp-ICE is dependent on Internet Explorer and will not work with any other web browser, nor do the suppliers have any plans to change this.

Please inform your ICT departments of this dependency.

Helen Cerullo - Sp-ICE System Manager

Improved despatch note to confirm the cold chain, will be implemented 30 June

The [switchover](#) will be completed mid-morning, so you may receive despatch notes with either the old or new template, on this day.

If you have any queries, please contact your Customer Service Manager.

Christine Gallagher - Regional Customer Service Manager (North)

Please update your LIMs for FFP units converted from plasmapheresis donations

We are collecting convalescent plasma by plasmapheresis to treat patients on the COVID-19 clinical trials, from donors who meet the requirements of the donor selection guidelines.

Donations which don't have high levels of COVID antibodies will be converted to standard Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP) units which conform to the FFP specification in our component portfolio.

Although they are in routine use, only very small numbers of them are issued each year and it is likely that some hospitals have not received them, so please ensure your LIMs system is updated with the barcodes which are in appendix 3 of the [portfolio](#).

Lucy Frith - Process Improvement Manager

Please update your LIMs in preparation for UK sourced FFP and cryoprecipitate components for neonates and infants

We are in the final stages of developing these components which be issued to hospitals from August. Please ensure that your LIMs are updated with the [barcodes](#) in time to receive them.

The specifications are in sections 7.35 and 7.36 of JPAC's [Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services](#). The components are suitable for neonates and infants under 1 year of age:

- manufactured from known donors
- paediatric antibody specification (PANTS) tested
- high titre (anti A and anti B) antibody negative

We will continue to issue a mixed inventory of UK and non-UK FFP and cryoprecipitate components, as we run down imported plasma stocks. This will continue for some time due to high stock levels which are a result of the reduced demand during the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have any queries on this or any aspect of the plasma transition please contact your Customer Service Manager.

Jane Davies - Lead Specialist

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

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