



Blood and Transplant

The Update for August 2020

Improved availability of pooled group O+ granulocytes from 14 September

We are trialling producing a limited quantity on Mondays so they are available 6 days per week, instead of 5.

This is a 12 month trial, following feedback from clinicians (who use granulocytes) and transfusion laboratory managers, to assess the demand from hospitals, and the increased operational and blood donor activity, to produce for an additional day.

To help us meet your order please continue to give 24 hours' notice where possible and request as early in the day as you can. If you need granulocytes at shorter notice we will check what units may be available.

If you are considering transfusing, please contact the NHSBT consultant on call at the earliest opportunity to discuss the patient's requirements, so we can provide what's needed as soon as possible.

Around bank holidays we produce granulocytes whenever we can, but we can't guarantee them and can only confirm availability on a case by case basis.

Chris Philips, Head of Customer Service

TLMs – please complete our next customer satisfaction survey

We'll be sending our survey to Transfusion Laboratory Managers on 14 September, to rate us on our blood supply, delivery and other services (it was postponed in March due to COVID-19).

We appreciate it's hard for lab managers to find time to complete the survey so please support them: we're keen to reach our target of 100% response rate.

The feedback is invaluable; it helps us to focus on developing our services, turning the insights we get into actions that improve our performance and your satisfaction.

You can [read the questions](#) we will ask, along with the results of last year's survey. This webpage will be updated with the results and actions of this survey.

Chris Philips, Head of Customer Service

Validating a plasmapheresis machine to support our convalescent plasma programme

This is currently taking place and collections from the machine may be issued as convalescent plasma or, if no antibodies are detected, may be converted into standard FFP (subject to it meeting the specification).

The fit and thaw rate of plasma has been assessed using a Barkey Plasmatherm plasma thawer without any problems. Please be assured that the specification and volume of the plasma is the same although staff may notice some minor visual differences to the pack. They are approximately 1 cm wider and 1 cm shorter.

The anticoagulant used for the collection is composed of:

- 4% Sodium citrate
- pH 6.4 to 7.5
- Trisodium citrate dihydrate Ph. Eur. 40 g/l
- Trisodium citrate 136 mmol/l
- Citric acid monohydrate Ph. Eur. pH adjustment
- Water for injection Ph. Eur. ad 1000 ml

Our component portfolio will be updated with this information.

All component barcodes, product codes and names remain unchanged.

Jane Davies, Lead Specialist - Manufacturing Development Team

Updated H&I guidance for sample labelling and completing a request form

This guidance ([MPD1108/2](#)) is now available to download from the [H&I web page](#).

Dr Andrea Harmer, Head of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics

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

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