

Reduced Dose Platelets: Key Messages

For Transfusion Laboratory Staff & Hospital Transfusion Teams

Blood and Transplant

- Reduced-dose apheresis platelets (2/3 of the standard dose) will be issued in times of shortage.
- Reduced-dose apheresis platelets will be identifiable by a unique barcode and component label.
- During this time, platelets should only be used when essential for prophylaxis or urgent surgery, in line with national guidance [for red alert platelet shortage].
- Pooled platelets will be standard dose so should be used for bleeding patients when available.
- Reduced-dose apheresis platelets should be used for prophylaxis.
- Irradiated reduced-dose apheresis platelets will be available to order for patients with this indication.
- When implemented reduced-dose apheresis platelets will automatically be issued by NHSBT. This will optimise the supply of platelets to all hospitals. Oldest platelet components will be issued first. These could be standard-dose apheresis, reduced-dose apheresis, or pooled platelets.
- Pooled platelets, with no dose change, should only be specified for patients who are bleeding or to meet demand for potential major haemorrhage / trauma patients e.g., for Major Haemorrhage packs. **When ordering on OBOS, please state requirement for pooled platelets in the line notes.**
- Further information has been sent to your hospital transfusion team. Support is available by contacting your NHSBT Customer Service Manager
- For more comprehensive information refer to - [Guidance Notes for Reduced-Dose Apheresis Platelets](#)