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Canadian Blood Services
BLOOD
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INFORMATION ONLY

Changes to Apheresis Platelet Yield Testing

Customer Letter # 2020-46

2020-10-26

Dear Colleagues:

This letter is to advise of changes to our platelet yield testing procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently when there is an apheresis platelet collection instrument alarm due to a possible out of range platelet count, a sample is taken and shipped for platelet yield testing and the platelet component is held until results are received.

Effective immediately, there will be two situations where platelet yield testing will not be performed for an alarm during the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. During an amber or red advisory for platelet inventory.
2. Inability to ship samples for testing due to transport disruptions associated with the pandemic.

A review of previous data on platelet yields tested in association with this alarm indicates that removal of this testing means that there is a small risk that the number of platelets present in the component may be above or below the content of a typical unit described in the *Circular of Information For The Use of Human Blood Components, Platelets.*

Because of this, hospital customers will be sent a completed form F801955, *Notification of Apheresis Platelet Yield Not Tested* with any apheresis platelet component associated with an instrument alarm due to a possible out of range platelet count that was not tested for yield. Performance of a post transfusion platelet count of the transfused patient may be indicated at the discretion of the prescribing physician.

Please share a copy of this customer letter with healthcare professionals at your hospital who might be interested in this information.

This customer letter can also be viewed at www.blood.ca in the “Hospitals Services” section. If you have questions about this letter, or if you require it in an accessible format, please contact your local hospital liaison specialist.

Sincerely,

David Howe
Director, Supply Chain Process Management