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IMPORTANT INFORMATION
For Hospital Customers of Atlanta Blood Services
Mitigation of Bacterial Contamination Risk in Platelet Components

Atlanta Blood Services has implemented the FDA Guidance, *Bacterial Risk Control Strategies for Blood Collection Establishments and Transfusion Services to Enhance the Safety and Availability of Platelets for Transfusion, September 2019 and Updated December 2020.*

Effective July 6, 2021: ABS fully implemented Pathogen Reduction for all platelets collected by ABS using Cerus, Intercept technology.

Effective October 1, 2021: ABS is qualifying vendors for imported platelets to verify that one of the “single-step” mitigation strategies outlined in the guidance document is being met. The acceptable methods we anticipate are as followed:

Acceptable Imported Products:

Pathogen Reduced platelets using an FDA Approved methodology

Large Volume Delayed Sampling (LVDS) no sooner than 36 hours apheresis platelets with 5 day expiration.

Large Volume Delayed Sampling (LVDS) no sooner than 48 hours apheresis platelets with either 5 day or 7 day expiration.

When Pathogen Reduced Platelets are not available for import, ABS is verifying that acceptable strategies for Bacterial Tested Apheresis Platelets are met::

Large Volume Delayed Sampling (LVDS) no sooner than 36 or 48 hours apheresis platelets

- *Aerobic and anaerobic sampling (8ml each) 48 hours after collection for up to 7 day expiration*
- *Aerobic and anaerobic sampling (8ml each) 36 hours after collection for a 5 day expiration*
- *Sampling is from each produced platelet component from a donation*
- *Platelet components are released after 12 hours with a negative reading*

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Carrie Cox

Carrie Cox MT(ASCP)SBB
Executive Director
Atlanta Blood Services