

News Alert

Pathogen Reduced Platelet Product Update



Notification Date: November 10, 2020

Effective Date: Immediately

Each year, over 2 million platelet units are transfused to patients in the United States. Many of these patients are already immunologically compromised due to their underlying diseases.

The FDA has increased its focus on blood safety, as there has been concern regarding potentially contaminated platelet products being transfused.

A new FDA-approved pathogen reduction (**PR**) technology has been developed. This new blood system utilizes **psoralen treatment technology** to prevent pathogen replication and reduces the risk of transmission of known emerging pathogens. This technology is also designed to reduce the risk of the Zika virus and Babesiosis. This new Intercept blood system is also FDA approved as an alternative to gamma irradiation for the prevention of transfusion-associated graft versus host disease.

This new technology has been evaluated by the American Red Cross, who has determined that it is appropriate for production of platelet pheresis products. Of note, the majority of psoralen is generally filtered out of the platelet unit before it is sent to the hospital blood bank. Platelet dosing, volume, premedication and hang time are the same as conventional platelet products.

The American Red Cross is transitioning to this new pathogen reduced platelet product. The goal of the American Red Cross is that 100% of distributions will be PR platelets by 2023. This step was taken to ensure the safest possible platelet supply. Effective immediately, ProMedica Health Systems will be utilizing this new pathogen reduced platelet product along with our normal supply of platelets. Therefore, **irradiation or CMV-negative preparation is no longer needed for platelets that have been psoralen treated**. All ProMedica blood products are obtained through the American Red Cross.



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