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To:	Chairs – Hospital Transfusion Committees, Charge Technologists DHB Blood Banks	
CC:	NZBS Senior Team, Team Leaders NZBS Blood Banks, Team Leaders Processing, Team Leaders Logistics	
From:	Peter Flanagan	Date: 11 th December 2015
Subject:	National Rollout of 7 Day Platelet Component Shelf-Life	

MEMO

With effect from Tuesday 15th December all platelet components produced by NZBS will have a shelf-life of 7 days. These platelets will be progressively available for depot movement to Blood Banks from Thursday 17th December. We will continue to provide platelet components on a 'first in first out' basis in order to maximise utilisation of the remaining 5 day components. Effectively therefore all platelet components distributed by NZBS hub sites from Monday 21st December will have the extended shelf-life. This will greatly ease management of platelet inventory over the holiday period. Individual Blood Banks will need to review current standing orders for supply of platelet components and inform your local NZBS Logistic team of any changes.

The national roll-out follows a pilot implementation in the Auckland region which commenced on 21st September. The clinical outcomes of platelet transfusion during the pilot period have been closely monitored and no significant issues have been identified. This completes the requirements identified in the Medsafe approval and enables the national rollout to commence.

The extension of the shelf life has been associated with the introduction of an enhanced system for bacterial testing of platelet components. All components will now be cultured on day 2 of the shelf life and platelet components subsequently issued on a 'culture negative on release' basis. The approach used by NZBS mirrors systems used by the English national blood service. Haemovigilance data from the UK indicates that the longer shelf life does not impact adversely on safety or efficacy.

The April edition of the NZBS newsletter 'Blood Issues' provides further information on both the systems being used by NZBS and the clinical impact of an extended shelf-life. This can be accessed either on the NZBS website (<http://www.nzblood.co.nz/assets/Uploads/Blood-Issues-PDF-for-Website.pdf>) or on the platelet page in the Blood Resource folder available on DHB intranets (or <http://tiny.cc/nzbs>).

NZBS will continue to monitor closely the impact of the introduction of the extended shelf life during the early phase of the implementation. Please do not hesitate inform us of any issues or concerns that arise with their use.

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National Medical Director