NZBS Introduces a New Blood Component
'Platelets in Additive Solution'

During the next few months NZBS will be changing its standard platelet component. Currently platelets are provided suspended in plasma. The change will involve a move to provision of platelets suspended in Platelet Additive Solution (PAS). The change has been approved by Medsafe. NZBS aims to progressively change to the new component over the next few months commencing in early April 2011. The only exception to this will be platelets manufactured for intra-uterine and neonatal use which will continue to be provided suspended in plasma.

The clinical performance of platelets suspended in additive solution is equivalent to that of platelets suspended in plasma. Published data indicates that platelet increments might be slightly lower for platelets suspended in additive solution than for those in plasma. Haemostatic performance is however the same and for regular platelet recipients there is no change in the interval between transfusions.

International published data indicates that the frequency and severity of adverse reactions to platelet transfusions will reduce with the move to platelets in additive solution. This simply reflects the lower volume of plasma in the new component.

Ordering and transfusion requirements are unchanged as is the NZBS charge for the platelet component.

Full national implementation of Platelets in Additive Solution will release up to 5 tonnes of plasma for fractionation. This will be used to manufacture Intragam P. Demand for this product continues to grow at approximately 7% per year. Release of plasma through the use of PAS will reduce overall NZBS costs whilst enabling us to continue to meet future demand for Intragam P.

Further information on the new component can be provided on request. The NZBS Clinical team will be happy to answer any questions. Contact detaisl can be obtained from the hospital blood transfusion department.

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