New Platelet Product

Pathogen Reduced Platelets (Intercept)

To: UR Medicine Labs Clients

From: Neil Blumberg, MD
Professor of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
Director, Transfusion Medicine
Phone: (585) 275-3189
E-mail: Neil_Blumberg@urmc.rochester.edu

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On January 16, 2017 the Clinical Council approved the use of Pathogen Reduced Platelets for patients requiring platelet transfusions at Strong Memorial Hospital. Over the next year the Transfusion Service will be converting the platelet inventory to 100% pathogen reduced (Intercept) platelets. The timeline will be dependent upon the American Red Cross blood center as they increase production to meet the needs of our region. In the meantime we will provide both non-pathogen reduced platelet products and pathogen reduced platelet products to fulfill transfusion requirements.

Pathogen reduction is accomplished using psoralen and light, virtually abrogating the risk of donor derived bacterial sepsis, line infection etc. from room temperature stored platelets. This process has been in routine use in Europe for more than 10 years and has been used in the USA in some geographic regions at risk for Zika infection for a couple of years. Extensive randomized trials have been performed. The pathogen reduced platelet concentrate is equally as effective as non-pathogen reduced platelets at preventing bleeding due to thrombocytopenia, but may lower the risk of infectious disease to levels even lower than they are now. This has led the FDA decision to completely convert the nation's platelet supply to pathogen reduced platelets. As part of this FDA approval of pathogen reduced platelets, a Phase IV implementation safety and efficacy study will be ongoing at SMH and many other non-local hospitals, led by Dr. Majed Refaai. Pathogen reduced platelets will only be available, at present, at hospitals participating in the FDA Phase IV implementation trial. Locally this involves only SMH.

The American Red Cross expects to deliver the first pathogen reduced platelet on February 2, 2017. Please contact me, Majed Refaai MD, or Dr. Scott Kirkley MD with any questions or concerns regarding this change, or other transfusion related issues.