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19th November 2019

Hospital Transfusion Committee - Chairs

Dear All,

RE: Neonatal Platelet Components

I am writing to advise that NZBS has introduced a process improvement in the manufacture of neonatal platelet components.

Up until now, we have used minimum platelet content and a volume range as our specifications for the production of neonatal platelets. We are moving to using minimum platelet content and maximum platelet concentration as our new specifications in the understanding that a maximum platelet concentration is better for platelet viability. This is consistent with the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & Healthcare (EDQM, also known as the Council of Europe guidelines).

This should have no impact on clinical practice other than a slightly larger variation in the typical volume of neonatal platelet units.

We would appreciate if you could draw this letter to the attention of your neonatologists and paediatricians.

If you have any questions, please contact your local NZBS Transfusion Medicine Specialist.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Morley", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DR SARAH MORLEY
Chief Medical Officer

cc. *Transfusion Medicine Specialists – NZBS*
Transfusion Nurse Specialists – NZBS
All Blood Bank Team Leaders