

19th October 2020

Delayed till
early 2021

To: Hospital Transfusion Committee Chairs
Please distribute to all neonatologists and paediatricians

**RE: Information for Neonatologists and Paediatricians regarding a
Change in the Manufacture of Platelets for Neonatal Use**

I wrote to you in April 2020 about a proposal to produce neonatal platelets that are suspended in platelet additive solution (PAS) rather than plasma. This will potentially reduce transfusion reactions, improve inventory management, simplify processes, help with the future introduction of new plasma collection equipment and align us with the practice of the blood services of England and Australia.

I am pleased to announce that Medsafe has accepted the proposed change.

The planned date for discontinuing plasma platelet collections and starting production of neonatal platelets in PAS is **16th November 2020**. This change does not affect the way neonatal platelets are prescribed. It is also not expected to change the appearance of the platelets.

If you have any questions about the proposed change, please contact your local NZBS Transfusion Medicine Specialist or send them to me via email at sarah.morley@nzblood.co.nz

Kind regards



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Chief Medical Officer

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