

The Update February 2017

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For Action

Please add new product codes for washed red cells by end February

We currently issue two types of washed red cells:

- Red cells produced on an ACP215 cell washer, washed in saline glucose and re-suspended in SAGM with a 14 day shelf life. These are available off the shelf.
- Red cells manually washed and re-suspended in saline with a 24 hour shelf life. These are primarily produced in an emergency situation where there is insufficient stock of the 14 day product available or in the case of machine failure.

Following validation work in our Components Development Laboratory the red cells manually washed and re-suspended in saline will be replaced with red cells manually washed and re-suspended in SAGM. The new product has a 14 day shelf life.

The new product will start to be produced from the end of March and at this time the 24 hour washed cell will be phased out.

Please ensure the new codes are added to your systems to be able to accept the units.

Product Description	Shelf life	NHSBT Pulse Code	Start Code	Barcode No.	Stop Code	Barcode	Product Status
Red Cells, Washed, LD Automated Preparation	14 days	0074	a0	10010	3b		Existing
Red Cells, Washed, LD, Irradiated Automated Preparation	14 days	G074	a0	20010	3b		Existing
Red Cells, Washed LD Manual Preparation Suspended in saline	24 hours	0064	a0	04403	3b		Existing To be discontinued.
Red Cells, Washed, LD, Irradiated Manual Preparation Suspended in saline	24 hours	G064	a0	44403	3b		Existing To be discontinued.
Red Cells, Washed LD Manual Preparation Suspended in SAGM	14 days	0076	a0	46531	3b		New. Please add to LIMs
Red Cells, Washed, LD, Irradiated Manual Preparation Suspended in SAGM	14 days	G076	a0	46532	3b		New. Please add to LIMs

Jane Davies, Lead Processing Specialist

Ordering HEV screened blood components & introducing 100% screening

Please continue to order HEV screened components for patient groups recommended by SaBTO in 2015 which are solid organ and stem cell transplant recipients until 100% screening has been implemented.

SaBTO's 2016 recommendation for providing HEV screened components for additional patient groups states this should be implemented "by UK blood services as soon as it is practical to do so". Our project to manage the implementation of 100% screening is underway and we will be upgrading some of the equipment used to perform NAT testing, in order to provide cost effective screening.

Once we have validated the new equipment we will implement 100% screening and will let you know in advance.

Until then we will provide HEV negative components where requested. We do not intend to discard any unscreened components because there are large numbers of patients for whom these components are suitable.

Therefore there will be a period of time where 100% testing is in place but unscreened components will still be issued. We will inform when all stock is HEV screened and you no longer need to specify this as a requirement when you place an order.

We appreciate that stocks of unscreened frozen components may remain in hospitals for some time, and would expect that hospitals will use these components for suitable patients. This will expedite the transition to 100% screened components whilst avoiding wastage. To minimise potential confusion we will continue to label all components as HEV negative.

Lucy Frith, Customer Services Process Improvement Manager

New referral forms and user guides for referring samples to Molecular Diagnostics

We have updated our [referral forms and user guides](#).

Please see our updated user guides for our sample labelling and form completion requirements. We can only accept samples for testing which are accompanied by the new referral form. Our website contains guidance on how to complete the referral form. Please note the fetal *RHD* screen request form has not changed.

Please cascade this information to your teams and destroy any previous versions of the documents.

Thank you for continuing to refer your samples to our Molecular Diagnostics laboratory. We hope you are happy with the service we provide.

Please [email us](#) if there is anything you would like to discuss.

Dr Kirstin Finning, Head of Head of Molecular Diagnostics, International Blood Group Reference Laboratory

Register for SHOT Symposium on 12 July by 30 June

We have a stimulating programme for the day including an interactive session for everyone to get involved and examples of best practice steps that you have taken to improve transfusion safety.

The deadline to [submit an abstract](#) is 28 April and the best abstract will be allocated an oral slot.

Following the success of the breakfast meeting last year, we will be holding another from 8.30 - 9.30 am where you can 'Ask the Experts' who analyse SHOT data and write the report. Spaces are limited. Please see booking conditions on the [application form](#)

The subsidised delegate fee is £110.

Venue:

Rothamsted Centre for Research and Enterprise
Harpenden
Hertfordshire AL5 2JQ

Alison Watt, SHOT Operations Manager

For Information

Blood pack validations: appearance of packs may differ slightly from February

You may notice some blood packs that have a slightly different appearance to those you normally see and other than minor visual changes, there will be no impact on your practice. These packs may be noticed for other components and may appear at any UK hospital.

These are not from our current supplier as we are presently out to tender for pack supply from May 2018. The tender process is a collaborative exercise under the European Blood Alliance and includes the following members NHSBT, IBTS, NIBTS, WBS, SNBTS, ARCBS, and NZBS.

We last communicated about this in August 2016 to let you know that validation would begin in September 2016. The number of packs issued to date has been very low as the majority were tested up to expiry and not issued to hospitals. The next phase of validation began in January with more packs being issued.

If you have any queries concerning this change please contact your local Hospital Service department or Customer Service Manager.

Jane Davies, Lead Specialist, MDT

New PBM bookmarks and revised patient information leaflet

The PBM team and Paediatric / Haematology colleagues have produced new bookmarks:

- Transfusion of Blood Components for Infants and Children
- Transfusion of Blood Components for Neonates

They are based on the 2016 BSH Guidelines on transfusion for fetuses, neonates and older children and were launched at the Paediatric and Neonatal Transfusion national conference on 2 February.

The 'Information for patients with Sickle Cell Disease who may need a blood transfusion' leaflet has been revised and became effective from 16 January. Please ensure that all old copies are removed from circulation.

You may order these resources from the [distribution hub](#) (packs of 25 and free of charge).

Denise Watson, Patient Blood Management Practitioner

Ordering Group AB Pooled Cryoprecipitate for stock

Since [October](#) last year we have increased our stock levels and can supply orders for general use of this component.

We would like to thank you for your continued consideration which has supported us in rebuilding stocks.

Christine Gallagher, Regional Customer Service Manager

Our Customer Satisfaction Survey

We had a great response to our [December survey](#) which helps us deliver powerful messages to the teams that support hospital transfusion. We are really pleased to hear that 85% of you are very satisfied with NHSBT overall.

You like the range and quality of our components, OBOS, and the service provided by our Hospital Services staff. You would like us to improve availability of O D neg red cells, A D neg platelets and specialist components.

You prefer your components delivered by our drivers and would welcome changed or additional deliveries. We rely on our couriers to support a cost effective service and are working with TNT to ensure the best service possible. We are keen to help hospitals reduce the number of ad hoc deliveries and make sure routine rounds are used effectively.

You appreciate our RCI service and would like confirmation that your samples have been received by us. You expect accurate reports and value the improvements we've made so far. You recognise how much turnaround times have improved and the value of the extended working day. You rate H&I highly.

Invitations to join our next survey will be sent to a select group of hospitals in March. Please help us by taking time to complete the online survey.

Tracey Scholes, Customer Service Development Manager

Availability of Specialist Components at individual Stock Holding Units

This [information](#) is now directly available from the products page on the Hospitals and Science Website for quick access. The component portfolio has also been updated to better inform you of the stock levels available at individual Stock Holding Units (SHU).

Whilst the levels stated at each SHU are set targets, actual stock level will vary dependant upon hospital ordering and our fulfilment. We endeavour to maintain target levels daily, but please consider when ordering that there may be a need to obtain stock from another centre to fulfil your request. This will be communicated at the point of receiving your order.

Tracey Scholes, Customer Service Development Manager

For Training

Our [training events](#) are open to Hospitals and your attendance is welcomed. We look forward to meeting you.



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