

20 November 2018

To: Transfusion Lab Managers and Transfusion Practitioners

Dear Colleague

Service provision from 25 December 2018 to 1 January 2019

We wish to inform you of our adjusted service provision schedule for deliveries and for our testing services for Red Cell Immunology (RCI), and Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (H&I).

We are also providing guidance for placing platelets orders, to assist us with stock management over this period.

Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day (25, 26 December, 1 January)

On the above dates, our RCI and H&I services will be available on call only, and deliveries will be made for emergency and ad hoc orders only. Standing orders due on 25, 26 December and 1 January will be delivered as ad hocs. If you do not require these orders, please can we ask that you amend in OBOS accordingly.

24 December, 27 to 30 December, and 2 January

Our RCI and H&I services, and our delivery schedule remain as normal. Please refer to your local working arrangements for the weekend service.

Collect orders

We will continue to fulfill collect orders in this period, and respectfully request that you give us as much notice as possible.

RCI samples

Samples taken on 21 December must be received no later than 24 December to enable testing to be undertaken on that day.

Ordering guidance for platelets

- HLA / HPA - to ensure we provide the best match for patients, please give a minimum of 24 hours' notice. Provision out of hours (including bank holidays and weekends) is for **emergencies only** and may incur an ad hoc delivery charge to reach your hospital at the required time
- Units requested for "Stock" will be supplied with a minimum of 48-hours shelf life from receipt whenever possible.
- Order in line with BSH guidelines to help us maintain the availability of higher specification platelets for those patients who need them.

- Consider the clinical requirement before specifying apheresis and / or CMV negative requirements. Please refer to the [Apheresis Platelet Myth Buster](#) on the Hospitals and Science website for further information.
- Do not request High Titre negative for ABO identical platelet transfusion.
- Accept substitution of D negative units for D positive requests, or irradiated units for non-irradiated requests. You will not incur any additional charge for substituted units.

Pooled granulocytes

Pooled granulocytes will not be available 23 to 27 December inclusive and 30 December to 2 January inclusive as indicated on p51 of the [NHSBT](#) Portfolio of Blood Components and Guidance for their Clinical Use.

If you have any questions, please contact your Customer Service Manager. Alternatively, telephone our response desk on 0208 201 3107, 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday; we'll be pleased to help.

Please forward this letter to your Consultant lead for transfusion and cascade to laboratory and clinical staff as appropriate.

Kind Regards,

Commercial and Customer Services

NHS Blood and Transplant

Tel: 01865 381010

Email: NHSBT.customerservice@nhsbt.nhs.uk

Service provision for the holiday period

	Delivery	RCI	H&I
24 December	normal service	normal service	normal service
25 December	emergency and ad hoc only	on call	on call
26 December	emergency and ad hoc only	on call	on call
27 December	normal service	normal service	normal service
28 December	normal service	normal service	normal service
29 December	normal weekend service	normal weekend service	normal weekend service
30 December	normal weekend service	on call	normal weekend service
31 December	normal service	normal service	normal service
1 January	emergency and ad hoc only	on call	on call
2 January	normal service	normal service	normal service