

RE: Notification to customers regarding change in communication when RhD-positive platelets are issued to RhD-negative patients

August 25, 2026

Dear transfusion service customers,

Transfusion service is changing its policy related to issuing RhD-positive platelets to RhD- negative patients. Specifically, for RhD-negative male patients greater than 18 years old and female patients greater than 50 years old, transfusion service will issue an RhD-positive platelet product if RhD-negative platelets are not available. A phone call for the provider to accept this substitution will no longer occur. The Bloodworks physician covering TSL will be aware and will initiate communication if definitive prevention of anti-D alloimmunization using Rh immune globulin (Rhlg) may be warranted. For female patients less than 50 years old, the provider will still be made aware if an RhD- positive platelet is the available product.

The provider may always choose to give a dose of Rhlg in order to prevent sensitization to the D antigen. One 300 µg dose of Rhlg will cover a large number of platelet doses because number of red cells (which express the D protein) in a platelet product is very small. Several retrospective studies published suggest that the chance of sensitization with apheresis platelets is very low. A prospective study published by the BEST collaborative places the risk of sensitization at 1.4 % when both apheresis and whole blood derived platelets are used to support a patient.

A Bloodworks physician on call is available 24-7 if the provider needs further guidance on this topic or others related to transfusion support of patients.

Ref: ADAPT study. *Br J Haem* 2015;168:598-603.

Sincerely,



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