



MEMORANDUM #72

TO: UNCMC Attending Physicians, Faculty Practice Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

FROM: *RCS* R. Chad Siniard, MD, Director, UNC Blood Donor Center
WBP Yara A. Park, MD, Director, Transfusion Medicine Services
MCU Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD, Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

SUBJECT: A New Platelet Product Coming to UNC Hospitals

DATE: August 21, 2019

Beginning September 3, 2019, UNC Transfusion Medicine Services will begin adding pathogen-reduced (PR) platelets (also known as pathogen-inactivated platelets) as a portion of the platelet inventory for the hospital. PR-platelets have been used in Europe for over 14 years with millions of platelets transfused without concern. The FDA approved this pathogen reduction process for platelets over four years ago.

The PR-platelets are collected by the UNC Blood Donor Center from the same donor pool we use to provide our current platelet products. After collection, however, in addition to being tested for all the FDA required infectious disease markers, the PR-platelet product is treated with a psoralen called amotosalen that when activated with UV-A light, binds to any single or double stranded DNA or RNA present in the unit of platelets. Thus, DNA or RNA associated with viruses, bacteria, spirochetes, and parasitic organisms are inactivated by the process rendering the platelet unit effectively non-infectious.

As the pathogen reduction process will also inactivate T-cells, thus preventing transfusion-associated graft versus host disease (TA-GVHD), PR-platelets will not be irradiated but are still safe for patients who required irradiation to prevent TA-GVHD.

An example of the PR-platelet product label is on next page.

For more information regarding pathogen reduced apheresis platelet components you can read this item published by the AABB: <https://www.aabb.org/programs/clinical/Documents/Q-and-A-about-Pathogen-Reduced-Apheresis-Platelet-Components.pdf>.

Please direct any questions about the new PR-platelets to Dr. Chad Siniard in Transfusion Medicine at 984-974-1780.

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University of North Carolina Hospitals
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
FDA Registration Number 1073105

Properly identify intended recipient
See Circular of Information for indications,
contraindications, cautions and methods of infusion.
This product may transmit infectious agents.
Rx Only

VOLUNTEER DONOR

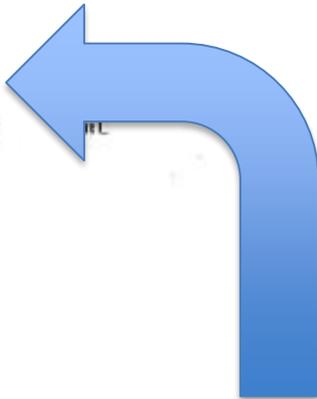
E8973V00

0191382359

Expiration Date
18 MAY 2019

**APHERESIS
PLATELETS
LEUKOCYTES REDUCED
PSORALEN - TREATED**

200 mL containing approx
ACD - A
Store at 20 to 24 C
3rd container



*Products that have “Psoralen-Treated” in
the description are considered to be
equivalent to an “Irradiated” product*
