



**MEMORANDUM #70**

TO: UNC Hospitals Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators,  
Department Heads and Supervisors

FROM: *Yara* Yara A. Park, MD, Director, Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine Laboratory

*Herb* Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD, Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

**SUBJECT: A New Platelet Product Coming to UNC Hospitals**

DATE: June 20, 2017

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Beginning July 10, 2017, 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 two years ago.

The PR-platelets are collected by the American Red Cross from the same donor pool they 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 contained in blood, 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 below.

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



0600

The American National Red Cross  
Washington, DC 20006  
FDA Registration Number 1473043

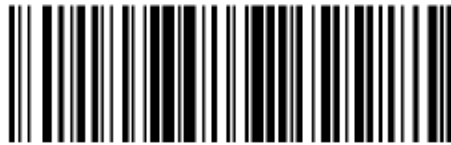


**Rh NEGATIVE**

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**



E8340V00



Expiration  
Date/Time

0161512359  
30 MAY 2016

APHERESIS  
PLATELETS  
PAS - C ADDED  
LEUKOCYTES REDUCED  
PSORALEN-TREATED  
347 mL  
containing approx \_\_\_\_\_ mL ACD-A  
Contains approx 65% PAS/35% Plasma  
Store at 20 to 24 C



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