



Canadian  
Blood  
Services

BLOOD  
PLASMA  
STEM CELLS  
ORGANS  
& TISSUES

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## ACTION REQUIRED

National Deployment of Pathogen-Reduced Platelets: Second Update

Customer Letter # 2023-03

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2023-02-06

Dear Colleagues:

Further to Customer Letters [2022-18](#) and [2022-34](#), the below provides a progress update to our national deployment of pathogen-reduced platelets.

The pathogen-reduced components are labeled Pooled Platelets Psoralen-treated (PPPT) and Apheresis Platelets Psoralen-treated (APPT), as well as an untreated (not pathogen-reduced) component labelled Apheresis Platelets PAS-E added (AP in PAS). APPT and AP in PAS require Health Canada approval and are not yet available in Canada

### Changes to implementation dates

1. After consultation with select transfusion leaders for hospitals served by the Winnipeg production site, **implementation of PPPT in Winnipeg has been moved up to May 15, 2023** (previously scheduled date for Vancouver, which is now being reassessed).
2. **Implementation of APPT and AP in PAS in Ottawa has been adjusted to June 12, 2023.**
3. **PPPT implementation dates beyond Dartmouth and Winnipeg and APPT and AP in PAS implementation beyond Ottawa are being reassessed** due to unforeseen supply chain challenges in materials required for APPT, PPPT and AP in PAS manufacturing. Canadian Blood Services (CBS) is carefully monitoring the situation and is confident that Dartmouth, Winnipeg and Ottawa can be supported during this supply challenge. This challenge does not affect manufacturing of untreated platelet components without PAS-E.

### **Six-week PPPT implementation update - Dartmouth production site**

Hospitals served by CBS' Dartmouth production site should prepare for implementation of **Pooled Platelets Psoralen-treated** with a **5-day shelf life** on **March 20, 2023**. Our Dartmouth production site produces the majority of pooled platelets for the Atlantic provinces, including platelets distributed to New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador distribution sites.

### **Three Month PPPT implementation update – Winnipeg production site**

Hospitals served by CBS' Winnipeg production site should prepare for implementation of **Pooled Platelets Psoralen-treated** on **May 15, 2023, conditional on Health Canada approval of 7-day shelf life**.

**Estimated implementation timeline by site (*subject to change*):**

| Production Site  | Pooled Platelets Psoralen-Treated implementation timelines  | Apheresis Platelets Psoralen Treated & Apheresis Platelets PAS-E added implementation timelines** |
|--|---|---|
| Ottawa   | Implemented in January 2022   | June 12, 2023*  |
| Dartmouth  | March 20, 2023<br><b>Note:</b> Dartmouth provides pooled platelets for the Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick distribution sites | To Be Announced* (TBA)  |
| Winnipeg   | May 15, 2023*   | TBA*  |
| Vancouver  | TBA*  | TBA*  |
| Calgary  | TBA*<br><b>Note:</b> Calgary provides pooled platelets for the Edmonton and Regina distribution sites                                     | TBA*  |
| Brampton   | TBA*  | TBA*  |
| <b>*Conditional on Health Canada approval of 7-day shelf life</b>                              |   |   |
| <b>**APPT and AP in PAS require Health Canada approval and are not yet available in Canada</b> |   |   |

**Action required for all hospitals:**

We encourage all hospitals to continue to prepare for implementation of these components. Share the implementation updates, component information and resource links (see next paragraph) to physicians/nursing and affected staff in your hospital. Please update Laboratory Information Systems with new codes to accommodate components being shared between production sites once national deployment commences. See [CL 2022-18 Attachment 1](#) and [CL 2022-34 Attachment 1](#).

Please visit [Clinical Guide Chapter 19: Pathogen-reduced platelets | Professional Education](#) for educational materials, including:

- Clinical Guide providing detailed information about pathogen-reduced platelets
- FAQ
- Narrated videos and accompanying downloadable slide decks

**Seven-day shelf-life approval status**

CBS has submitted to Health Canada seeking approval to extend the shelf life of the Pooled Platelets Psoralen-treated components from 5-day to 7-day. The Pooled Platelets Psoralen-treated components manufactured in Ottawa, and to be implemented in Dartmouth, will remain with a 5-day shelf life, until Health Canada approval for 7-day shelf-life is received.

Please share a copy of this customer letter with healthcare professionals at your hospital who might be interested in this information.

This customer letter can also be viewed at [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca) in the “Hospital Services” section. If you have questions about this letter, or if you require it in an accessible format, please contact your local hospital liaison specialist.

Sincerely,

David Howe  
Director, Supply Chain Process Management