



To: Blood Bank Medical Directors and Transfusion Service Managers
From: Dr. Frances Compton, Medical Director of Patient Services
Date: August 5, 2024
Re: Low Yield Platelets

Carter BloodCare is continually working to improve our blood inventory to meet the needs of our community. We are currently strengthening our platelet inventory by providing more low-yield platelets for transfusion. Beginning September 10, 2024, we will decrease our **low-yield** minimum platelet count from **2.8 X 10¹¹ to 2.5 X 10¹¹ platelets per bag**. This means that any low-yield platelet product (either pooled or apheresis) that your hospital receives will have a platelet yield between 2.5 X 10¹¹ to 2.9 X 10¹¹. Our **standard platelet minimum yield will remain** at the required 3.0 X 10¹¹ platelets per bag. Of note, low-yield platelets will be labeled with their appropriate product code and provided at a reduced cost when compared to a standard platelet product.

US and International literature support the use of low-yield platelets. A large US trial showed that low dose platelets with yields even lower than 2.5 X 10¹¹ did not affect bleeding incidence in study participants¹. Additionally, other countries and even US hospitals have published their experiences in using low-yield platelets, with no noticeable increase in platelet usage^{2,3}. While the risk of transfusing low-yield platelets is minimal, maybe even negligible; the benefits are great. This could help us decrease platelet shortages and stabilize the platelet supply⁴.

Carter BloodCare's Medical Director team is available for consultation and to address questions you may have regarding these platelets.

Please contact hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org with any questions or concerns.

1. Slichter SJ, Kaufman RM, Assmann SF, et al. Dose of prophylactic platelet transfusions and prevention of hemorrhage. *N Engl J Med.* 2010; 362(7):600-613.
2. Devine DV. Impact of product platelet count reduction on platelet demand in Canada. *Transfusion.* 2022; 62: 481–2.
3. Tang MS, Shu E, Sussman H, Virk M, Pandey S, Shan H, et al. Transfusion outcomes between regular and low yield pathogen reduced platelets across different patient populations in a single institution. *Transfusion.* 2022; 62 (10): 2012–9.
4. Benjamin RJ, L Katz, RR Gammon et al. The argument(s) for lowering the US minimum required content of apheresis platelet components. *Transfusion.* 2019; 59; 779–788.