



To: Carter BloodCare Customers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: December 15, 2022
Re: Critical BioFlex Quad Blood Bag Shortage and Apheresis Platelets

Background

As previously communicated, a critical local and nationwide blood bag shortage has caused Carter BloodCare to find alternative solutions to minimize the impact to your current workflow and transfusion practices. One of these mitigation steps included validating an alternative whole blood bag collection kit. Although this collection kit does allow for the continuation of ADSOL[®] 42-day expiration red cells and normal frozen products, it does not allow for the manufacturing of whole blood derived platelets. Carter BloodCare has always supplemented the platelet inventory with whole blood derived platelets and associated pooled platelet products (Acrodose[™] platelets) to meet the community need.

Due to circumstances outside of our control and manufacturer limitations, we anticipate exhausting the quad bag blood collection kits sometime next week. Regrettably, we are not able to give you a definitive date, but we will update you as we receive information from the manufacturer.

With the inability to produce whole blood derived platelets and associated pooled platelet products, we do anticipate the overall inventory of platelet products to become limited. Carter BloodCare will attempt to increase the number of single donor apheresis platelets during this time to offset the need for the whole blood derived platelets. Resource sharing and importing platelet products will also be limited as we are not the only blood center affected by this national blood bag shortage. Considering this, we are requesting you to prepare for the following.

Impact to Hospital Customers and Patients

- Prepare for limited apheresis platelet products to be available as overall demand will increase for this product without the ability to process whole blood derived platelet products.
- Platelet rotations could be delayed or rescheduled based on availability of replacement products.
- Please notify appropriate administration and patient care teams.
- Platelets prepared from whole blood will resume once blood collection kit availability allows.

- Please encourage family, friends, and colleagues to donate platelets at one of the [Carter BloodCare Donor Centers](#).

Questions and Additional Information:

Please contact hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org with any concerns.