



To: Carter BloodCare Customers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: December 20, 2022
Re: Critical BioFlex Quad Blood Bag Shortage and Apheresis Platelets

Background

As we've shared, we are experiencing a critical local and nationwide blood bag shortage. This shortage limits our capability to supplement the apheresis platelet inventory with pooled whole blood derived platelets (Acrodose™ platelets) to meet the community need. The situation is worsened by the decrease in overall donor presentations which we are projecting will be further negatively impacted due to the expected freezing temperatures later this week. As a result, the following strategy will be implemented by Wednesday, December 21st to ensure platelets are available to meet patient transfusion needs.

Impact to Hospital Customers and Patients

- Platelet inventory maintained onsite per rotation schedule will most likely be reduced at a minimum by one platelet.
- Hospitals that maintain *only* one cold stored platelet onsite with minimal transfusion history may not receive a platelet on rotation. Product orders will need to be placed when a transfusion order is imminent.
- Facilities that maintain a dual inventory of cold stored and apheresis platelets:
 - o The decision to distribute a CSP or apheresis platelet will be based on historical transfusion rate and distance from the blood center
 - o Cold-stored platelets will be reserved and maintained at hospitals that are in outlying areas
- Please notify your medical director and patient care teams.
- This temporary process will remain in effect until supplies are replenished.
- 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.