THE BLOOD CENTER
Serving you for life!

September 22, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

Beginning October 1, 2021, The Blood Center (TBC) will have completed implementation of FDA mandated methods to minimize potential bacterial contamination of platelet components in compliance with the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB), the College of American Pathologists and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards and guidelines.

Prevention of bacterial contamination for platelet products produced by TBC are as follows:

1) Apheresis platelets cultured by Large Volume (LV) sampling using the BioMerieux BacT/ALERT system (7-day approved)
2) Pathogen reduction using the Cerus Intercept System (5-day approved - no bacterial screening required))

Bacterial contamination risk reduction requires platelet components to be held before sampling. extending the usual holding period for the completion of all FDA-mandated testing (ABO/Rh, antibody screen, viral marker detection, etc.). If platelets components are requested by a client facility prior to the completion of bacterial screening or pathogen inactivation, an Emergency Release Form, signed by both the attending physician and Transfusion Service Medical Director, must be submitted to The Blood Center before release.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you require further information, please contact Lucretia Boudreaux, Director of Quality Assurance and Compliance at (985) 340-2323, or Ian Stephens, Vice President of Lab Operations and Hospital Resources at (985) 340-2325.

Sincerely,

Tim G. Peterson, M.D.
Medical Director