THE BLOOD CENTER
Serving you for life!

June 16, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

On October 1, 2021, The Blood Center (TBC) implemented 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 Delayed Sampling (LVDS ≥ 48 hours) using the Becton Dickinson Bactec /FX system (7-day expiration approved).
2) Apheresis platelets treated for pathogen inactivation using the Cerus Intercept System (5-day expiration approved - no bacterial screening required).
3) Whole-blood derived pooled platelets are cultured by Large-Volume Delayed Sampling (LVDS ≥ 48 hours) using the Becton Dickinson Bactec /FX System (7-day expiration approved).

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 platelet 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 the 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 Brandon Weales, Director of Production, Distribution, and Courier Services at (504) 592-1576.

Sincerely,

Tim G. Peterson, M.D.
Medical Director