



## **THE BLOOD CENTER**

*Serving you for life!*

Date: 03/22/2017

To Whom It May Concern,

On March 1, 2004, The Blood Center implemented methods to limit and detect bacterial contamination in all platelet components to ensure compliance with the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) Standards, the College of American Pathologists Transfusion Medicine, and the Food and Drug Administration.

Bacterial detection testing for the various platelet products we produce are as follows:

- 1.) Apheresis platelets are tested
  - a. using the BioMerieux BacT/ALERT system or;
  - b. they are pathogen reduced (no Bacterial detection is necessary)
- 2.) 5-day leukoreduced pooled platelets (a.k.a. "Acrodose" platelets) are tested for bacteria using the BacT/ALERT system.
- 3.) Whole blood derived (a.k.a. "random platelets") platelets are tested using the BioMerieux BacT/ALERT system.

All methods of bacterial testing require platelet components to be held before sampling. This period of time extends beyond the normal holding period for the completion of all other required testing (ABO/Rh, antibody screen, viral marker detection, etc). If platelets are needed prior to the completion of all required tests (including bacterial testing), an emergency release request, 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 Phyllis Haines, Director of Laboratory Services at (504) 592-1548.

Sincerely,

  
Billy Weales/President and CEO