

# Algorithm to guide hospital decision making in holding stock platelets

The objective of the algorithm is to guide hospitals in making a decision as to whether to hold stock platelets. Evidence has been collated by the BSMS in 2011 and in 2016.

## Specification of emergency platelet stock

**It is not necessary to hold A D Negative platelets.**

- Units negative for high titre haemagglutinins & non-group O platelets are associated with a lower risk of haemolysis.
- Pooled platelets suspended in PAS would also be expected to reduce the risk of haemolysis.
- Develop practices which maximise the use of ABO and D identical platelets.

**It is usually not necessary to specify CMV Negative/Apheresis.**

High usage

> 1000  
units/annum

Platelet  
Usage

### Consider holding stock platelets

*Factors to consider:*

- Consider holding at least one stock platelet.
- Level of Blood Service delivery. Avoidance of delay in clinical treatment.
- Patient mix – haematology /oncology patients
- Time expiry of platelet stock

### Hold Stock Platelets

*Factors to consider:*

- Hold at least one stock platelet
- Audit: taking into account following factors:
  - Clinical availability
  - Time Expiry/waste
  - Ability to reassign platelets between a number of clinical specialties

### Evaluate need to hold stock platelets

*Factors to consider:*

- Holding stock of platelets on certain days
- Time expiry of platelet stock
- Patient mix – haematology /oncology patients
- Level of Blood Service delivery. Avoidance of delay in clinical treatment
- Reduction in level of ad hoc/emergency deliveries. Holding stock may result in a reduction

### Consider holding stock platelets

*Factors to consider:*

- Consider holding at least one stock platelet.
- Level of Blood Service delivery. Avoidance of delay in clinical treatment.
- Patient mix – haematology /oncology patients
- Time expiry of platelet stock
- Holding stock of platelets on certain days

Low usage

< 400  
units/annum

< 1 hour

Delivery time to hospital from Blood Service

> 1 hour

## References

<http://hospital.blood.co.uk/media/28910/appropriate-use-of-platelets-across-blood-groups-final-1-2.pdf>

<http://www.b-s-h.org.uk/guidelines/guidelines/use-of-platelet-transfusions/>