The Blood Connection
Your Community Blood Donation Center

Meri Guerry, MD
William Kanner, MD
Medical Directors
Brian Madden
VP/COO
Tracy Bridges
Director of
Technical Services

TECHNICAL SERVICES BULLETIN

Recommendations to Address Residual Risk of Bacterial Contamination of Platelets

The recent AABB Bulletin #12-04-Recommendations to Address Residual Risk of Bacterial Contamination of Platelets was discussed during the TBC User Group meeting held on November 28, 2012. The bulletin focuses on the concerns related to bacterial contamination and describes the historical changes and recommendations which have been issued, as well as presents pertinent recommendations for blood centers and transfusion facilities. TBC policies include the following steps: Obtain a culture from the mother bag after at least 24 hours has elapsed (post collection). At least 8 mL of inoculum is used, and the bottle is loaded into the BacT/Alert system. The associated platelet product is not released until at least 10 hours of incubation has elapsed and the product has a negative result. The culture/bottle continues monitoring throughout the life of the platelet product.

The bulletin does suggest other considerations to reduce the risk of bacterial contamination, such as a point-of-use test (PGD/Verax) which can be utilized by the transfusion facility.

Additionally, the bulletin recommends that each transfusion facility improve recognition and monitoring of septic transfusion reactions of all platelet components and optimizing appropriate transfusion practices for all platelet components.

Please refer to the AABB Bulletin #12-04-Recommendations to Address Residual Risk of Bacterial Contamination of Platelets for complete information on this topic. The bulletin can be found on the AABB website: www.aabb.org.

TBC-Issue 17
February 2013