Date of publication: 15 August 2016	**Implementation:** To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 34 - 2016

Removal of upper limit of pH from Platelet Components

Currently platelet components are monitored for pH at end of shelf-life and >95% of units must be in the range 6.4-7.4. The requirement for an upper limit of pH for platelet components has been removed from the Council of Europe Guidelines, relevant EU Directive and UK Blood Safety and Quality Regulations. This was based on a review of literature that suggests that pH values in excess of 7.4 appear to have no detrimental effect on platelet function. Therefore this requirement is also being removed from UK platelet specifications.

These changes apply to the following components:

- 7.9: Platelets, Pooled, Buffy Coat Derived, Leucocyte Depleted
- 7.10: Platelets, Apheresis, Leucocyte Depleted
- 7.11: Platelets, Pooled, Buffy Coat Derived, in Additive Solution and Plasma, Leucocyte Depleted
- 7.12: Platelets in Additive Solution, Leucocyte Depleted
- 7.29: Platelets for Intrauterine Transfusion, Leucocyte Depleted
- 7.30: Platelets for Neonatal Use, Leucocyte Depleted

The **Testing** section tables of these specifications are changed as follows:

pH at end of shelf-life is changed from 6.4-7.4 to ≥6.4

Dr Sheila MacLennan
Professional Director - Joint UKBTS Professional Advisory Committee
☎ Direct Dial: (0113) 820 8638 ✉ sheila.maclennan@nhsbt.nhs.uk