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Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 17 - 2009

Red cells in additive solution, leucocyte depleted, for large volume transfusion of neonates and infants

Applies to the Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services in the United Kingdom – 7th Edition 2005

This change allows the use of red cells in additive solution for large volume transfusions of neonates and infants. Previously, the guidance has been to use red cells without additive solution for this purpose due to a perceived risk of toxic effects of the adenine and mannitol in the additive solution. However, the British Committee for Standards in Haematology (BCSH) state that cardiac centres using red cells in additive solution report no cause for concern, and the BCSH now supports the use of red cells in additive solution for cardiac surgery.

http://www.bcshguidelines.com/pdf/amendments_neonates_091205.pdf

Currently, the specification only allows red cells in additive to be used for top up transfusion of neonates and infants. This change permits use of this component for large volume transfusion.

Units less than 5 days old should be used for large volume transfusion of neonates and infants.

8.23 Red Cells in Additive Solution for Neonates and Infants, Leucocyte Depleted

Please delete: A red cell component suitable for neonates and infants under one year containing less than 5×10^6 leucocytes (per starting component). The red cells are suspended in an additive solution and may be divided into approximately equal volumes using a closed system.

Replace with: A red cell component suitable for top-up or large volume transfusion of neonates and infants under one year containing less than 5×10^6 leucocytes (per starting component). The red cells are suspended in an additive solution and may be divided into approximately equal volumes using a closed system.

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Please add to the section on Storage:

- For large volume transfusion of neonates and infants under 1 year, the component must be used by the end of day 5.

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