



**American Red Cross**

Dear Transfusion Service Partner:

The American Red Cross is experiencing a platelet shortage. Summer schedules and softening donor engagement has resulted in lower than planned platelet collections. Although active donor recruitment, intensified messaging and added promotions/incentives are already improving donor show rates, the Red Cross projects its platelet supply will be constrained for the next few weeks. As a result:

- Fulfillment of non-scheduled order will be reduced
- STAT orders will be filled with shortest dated platelets

Please manage your platelets orders accordingly and delay stock ordering until supplies are more stable. We will continue to provide visibility into our supply projections by updating Connect. In addition to sharing this important platelet supply information with your hospital administration and clinical partners, you may consider the following interventions to extend availability of limited inventory:

- When possible, split platelet units into smaller doses, which is an evidence-based, practice-based method for adult oncology inpatients based on the PLADO study (Slichter et al. N Engl J Med 2010;362:600-613)
- Consider using platelet counts of  $5 \times 10^3$  per  $\mu\text{L}$  as the trigger for prophylactic platelet transfusions rather than  $10 \times 10^3$  per  $\mu\text{L}$

I regret any inconvenience and disruption this may cause. Our teams are working round the clock to restore supply as quickly as possible. Our direct to

donor recruitment efforts will remain aggressive throughout the remainder of the summer. As always, your Red Cross Medical Director is available to provide any guidance you may require.

Thank you,



Pampee P. Young, M.D., Ph.D.  
Chief Medical Officer

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**Our mailing address is:**

American Red Cross  
431 18th St NW  
Washington, DC 20006

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