Dear Colleagues:

We are making a change to the Apheresis Platelet component end label to include the printing of Human Leukocyte Antigen and Human Platelet Antigen (HLA/HPA) results.

Currently hospital customers are provided a screen shot of the results from the Canadian Blood Services Laboratory Information System when requested. This change will improve our process and make these screen shots unnecessary in most cases.

On March 2, 2020, pending Health Canada approval, Canadian Blood Services will print HLA and HPA results in the eye readable section (lower right corner) of our Apheresis Platelet component end label. The HLA results will print first, followed by the HPA results. HLA/HPA results are not included in the barcode at this time.

In some cases, due to space limitations, an ellipsis (…) will print at the end of the eye readable section indicating that not all available results were able to print on the end label. See example below. In these cases, customers will receive a screen shot of results if the requested HPA result(s) do not print on the end label.
The IgA Deficient result, if applicable, will print after the HLA/HPA results in the eye readable section of the end label and will continue to be encoded in the barcode. However, due to space limitations, the IgA result may not be printed on the end label.

If a customer requests IgA Deficient Apheresis Platelets and the IgA Deficient result does not print on the end label, a blue Cytapheresis tag indicating the unit is IgA Deficient will be applied to the unit.

Please share a copy of this customer letter with healthcare professionals at your hospital who might be interested in this information.

This customer letter can also be viewed at www.blood.ca in the “Hospitals Services” section. If you have questions about this letter, or if you require it in an accessible format, please contact your local hospital liaison specialist.

Sincerely,

Rick Prinzen
Chief Supply Chain Officer and Vice-President, Donor Relations