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Concessionary Release Limits for Selected Components

Applies to the Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services in the United Kingdom – 8th Edition 2013

Chapter 7 of the Guidelines sets out specifications for those blood components made available within the UK. Compliance with these specifications is monitored routinely by selective testing of in-date and outdated units.

Concessionary release limits, the value at which a unit that is tested is deemed not suitable to be issued unless under concessionary release, were agreed and put into routine practice in 2011 in the UK. This included the haemoglobin content of red cells in additive, red cells for exchange and red cells for IUT, and the platelet content of buffy coat derived and apheresis platelet concentrates.

Further concessionary release limits have been agreed for a variety of components to add to those already in use. Therefore the components listed in the table below, that are tested and found to have values outwith the concessionary release limit should not be issued for transfusion unless under concessionary release.

Blood component	Parameter	LOWER LIMIT (< than)	UPPER LIMIT (> than)
7.6 Red Cells in Additive solution, Leucocyte Depleted	Volume (mL)	none	375
7.7 Red cells, washed, Leucocyte Depleted	Supernatant protein (g/unit)	none	0.5
7.22 Red Cells for Intrauterine Transfusion, Leucocyte Depleted	Volume (mL) Haematocrit	150 0.70	350 0.85
7.24 Red Cells Exchange Transfusion (not Whole Blood), Leucocyte Depleted	Volume (mL) Haematocrit	220 0.50	420 0.60
7.26 Red cells in additive for neonates and infants, Leucocyte Depleted	Hb (g/unit)	30/number of units divided into	none
7.9 Platelets, Pooled, Buffy Coat Derived, Leucocyte Depleted	Volume (mL)	150	380
7.10 Platelets, Apheresis, Leucocyte Depleted	Volume (mL)	150	380
7.29 Platelets for Intrauterine Transfusion, Leucocyte Depleted	Volume (mL) WBC (x10 ⁶ /unit)	50 none	120 2.5
7.15 Fresh-frozen plasma, Leucocyte Depleted	Volume (mL) FVIII (IU/ml)	200 0.3	360 none

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