



### "SaBTO recommendation"

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To"Dr. Lorna Williamson" <lorna.williamson@nhs.uk> **GRO-C**  
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bcc  
SubjectSaBTO recommendation

Dear Lorna,

It was good to speak with you yesterday.

I said I would write to you regarding DH's position on SaBTO's recommendation on platelet apheresis, to ensure clarity and a written record for NHSBT and DH. I also include an update on the work DH is doing following SaBTO's recommendation that all plasma should be sourced from outside the UK.

As you know SaBTO recommended at its July 2009 meeting that the UK Blood Services should move as far as possible towards 100% apheresis platelets, but that as a minimum, 80% of platelets should be collected by apheresis.

NHSBT has been working toward the 80% target for some years following MSBTO's recommendations on this subject, and the Department was pleased to see the target achieved at the end of the last financial year. We understand that there have been some problems maintaining collection at this level.

We wish to see NHSBT routinely and sustainably achieve at least 80% of its platelets collected by apheresis, in line with SaBTO's baseline recommendation. We are aware that you have been working to see how this can be delivered. We would be grateful if you could provide a brief update, including your best estimate of the timeline for achieving the target on a sustainable basis, at the Accountability Review meeting on 8 October.

With regard to SaBTO's recommendation that non-UK sourced plasma should be used for plasma transfusions for all patients to further limit risk of transmission of vCJD, the Department is exploring the feasibility of implementing this recommendation. This work will be led by the Blood policy team in close conjunction with departmental analytical and financial experts. It is likely however, that we shall need further information from NHSBT in order to fully assess the options. We will of course try to give you as much notice as possible of any information or other help that we require.

With best wishes,  
Rowena

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Message sent from a Blackberry handheld device.