

Zika virus testing implemented by Innovative Blood Resources to screen red cells and platelets



Our blood supplier, Innovative Blood Resources (IBR), (Minnesota division known as Memorial Blood Centers), started implementing Zika virus nucleic acid testing (NAT) on Monday, November 14, 2016. Per the FDA guidance for Industry: Revised Recommendations for reducing the Risk of Zika Virus Transmission by Blood and Blood Components (“Guidance”), testing must have begun by November 18, 2016. The NAT is currently available only under investigational new drug (IND) application. All tested units will be labelled as such. Effective December 1, 2016, there will be a surcharge of \$6.06 per red blood cell and platelet unit tested for Zika virus.

IBR is implementing this testing to provide safe blood products to the patients we serve and to mitigate the potential spread of Zika virus by transfusion.

If you have questions, please contact Jon Steinhauer, MD, Transfusion Services Medical Director, (218)249-5208, Paige Dibb, MLS (ASCP)^{CM}, Transfusion Services Technical Specialist (218)249-5689, Jennifer Viergutz, MT (ASCP), Laboratory Operations Manager (218)249-5724.