

*From the Acting Chief Medical Officer  
Dr Elizabeth Mitchell*



Department of

**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

**HSS(MD)36/2009**

**For action:**

Chief Executives, HSC Trusts for distribution to:  
*Emergency Planning Leads  
Medical Directors  
Heads of Blood Banks and Transfusion Committees*

Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority  
*for onward cascade to nursing homes and private clinics*

**For information:**

Chief Executive, HSC Board  
Chief Executive, Public Health Agency  
Director of Public Health, Public Health Agency  
Directors of Nursing, Public Health Agency  
Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service  
Directors of Nursing, HSC Trusts

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Your Ref:  
Our Ref: HSS(MD)36/2009

Date: 5 August 2009

Dear Colleague

**INTEGRATED PLAN FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PLATELET SHORTAGES**

Please find enclosed a copy of an integrated plan for the management of platelet shortages.

The plan is linked to the integrated plan for the management of red cell shortages issued by the DHSSPS in September 2006 **HSS(MD)39/2006**. **This is available on the Department's website:**  
[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/phhss-md-39-2006.pdf](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/phhss-md-39-2006.pdf)  
[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/phnibtsfinal\\_draft-39.pdf](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/phnibtsfinal_draft-39.pdf)

The plan operates in a similar way to the red cell plan. These arrangements will ensure that during situations which cause a shortage

- blood components continue to be available for all essential transfusions to patients equally across Northern Ireland; and
- overall usage is reduced to ensure the most urgent cases receive the supply which is available.

The plan has been developed by the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service in conjunction with Northern Ireland Regional Transfusion Committee.

## **ACTION REQUIRED**

Trusts are asked not only to note the contents but should ensure that their Emergency Blood Management Group produce a plan for the management of platelet shortages in line with the attached plan.

I thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely



**DR ELIZABETH MITCHELL**  
**Acting Chief Medical Officer**

Enc

cc: Dr Michael McBride  
Mr Andrew Elliott  
Mr Dean Sullivan  
Dr Elizabeth Reaney

This letter is available at [www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk) and also on the DHSSPS Extranet which can be accessed directly at <http://extranet.dhsspsni.gov.uk> or by going through the HPSS Web at <http://www.n-i.nhs.uk> and clicking on DHSSPS.