Prevention of Transfusion Transmitted CMV

As of 5/1/2006, requests for CMV seronegative red cell and platelet components will be filled using prestorage leukocyte-reduced components. Prestorage leukocyte-reduced components have been shown to be effective in preventing transfusion transmitted CMV.

CMV in blood donors has been shown to be carried by leukocytes. Several studies have shown that leukocyte reduction by current methods is highly effective in preventing transfusion-transmitted CMV. Leukocyte reduction is equivalent to CMV seronegativity in preventing CMV transmission. All of the cellular blood components (red cells and platelets) currently provided by the Blood Bank are pre-storage leukocyte reduced and subject to stringent quality control, and thus are CMV "safe". In this environment, CMV seronegative provides no additional benefit, but incurs extra costs. For these reasons, we have chosen to discontinue "CMV negative" components.