7.2 LEUCOCYTE AND MICROAGGREGATE FILTERS

LEUCOCYTE FILTERS
Leucodepleted red cells and platelets will be obtained from the Australian Red Cross Blood Service (ARCBS) and routinely provided for all KEMH patients. Leucodepleted paediatric red cell minipacks are provided for neonatal use.

Patients with a history of non haemolytic febrile transfusion reactions will receive leucodepleted red cells and platelets as part of routine stock issue.

If the use of CMV Negative blood is clinically indicated but is unavailable leucodepleted units will be used and the Blood Bank will notify the requesting Clinician and Consultant Haematologist.

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service (ARCBS) now produces 100% Leucodepleted products so there will no longer be any situations where bedside leucocyte filters are indicated.

MICROAGGREGATE FILTERS
Micro-aggregate filters (pore size 20-40 microns) are intended to remove microscopic debris from stored red blood cells. There is no evidence from controlled trials that they offer clinical benefit and their use is not recommended.

However a standard blood giving set, which incorporates a 170-200 micron filter, is required – see Section 7.1