

NHSBT Patient Blood Management Newsletter

Welcome

This is the fourth edition of the Patient Blood Management newsletter produced by the NHSBT Patient Blood Management Team. **This edition of our newsletter focuses on the appropriate use of Group O RhD Negative Red Cells.** The PBM team promote appropriate use of all blood components and their alternatives across England and North Wales, by providing educational resources, support and information.

Read more- Patient Blood Management – *An evidence based approach to patient care*

<http://www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk/uk-transfusion-committees/national-blood-transfusion-committee/patient-blood-management>

Why is Group O RhD negative so important?

Group O RhD negative red cells is the only blood group that can be given when the patient's blood group is unknown or not immediately available.

As a consequence of this there is a higher demand from hospitals for stocks of this blood group . Only 11% of our donors have the blood group O RhD negative and they can only donate blood a maximum of four times per year if male and three times per year if female. This means that we need to think carefully about why and when we are using this limited and precious resource.

Read more <http://www.blood.co.uk/about-blood/blood-group-basics/>



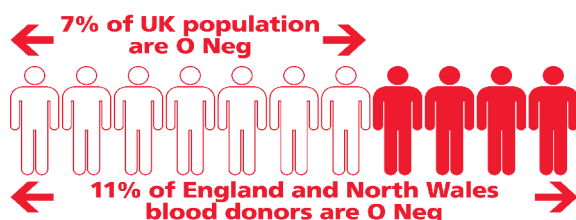
There are several indications for appropriate and necessary use of Group O RhD negative red cells, these include:

- **Group O RhD negative neonates and children**
- **Group O RhD negative patients with anti D**
- **Group O RhD negative females of childbearing potential**
- **Females of childbearing potential whose blood group is unknown (usually emergency scenarios)**
- **Intrauterine transfusions (except in cases where the mother has particular antibodies)**
- **Patients with antibodies when the only compatible blood available is O RhD negative.**

Read more:

<http://hospital.blood.co.uk/media/27426/nbt-2009-o-neg-recommendations.pdf>

Did you know?



On average each O RhD negative blood donor donates 20% more blood than other donor groups



Choosing wisely



To help ensure that group O RhD negative blood is always available for those patients who really need it:

Switch to type specific red blood cells as soon as it becomes available
- contact the transfusion laboratory to ensure they have received a crossmatched blood sample and if they have a previous record of the patient's blood group.

Consider using O RhD positive blood instead of O RhD negative blood
- it is important not to transfuse children and women of childbearing potential with cells carrying the RhD antigen, but adult males and older adult females could receive O RhD positive blood instead of O RhD negative.

Find out what the policy is in your hospital

To have and to hold

Maintaining an unnecessarily high O RhD negative stock in hospitals, places a strain on the supply of this group and on the O RhD negative donors who help support it.

Wastage of O RhD negative red cells is higher than any other blood group. From January 2014 – December 2014, 8,555 units of group O RhD negative red cells were wasted in England and North Wales.

Common reasons for wastage are:

- The unit reaches its expiry date
- Out of temperature control: following delivery to the clinical area it has been decided not to transfuse the unit but the unit has been out of the fridge for too long and cannot be reused
- If you are not going to use the unit immediately it will need to be returned to the laboratory within **30 minutes**

Regularly review when and why you used O RhD negative red cells for emergencies and investigate incidents where its use is considered inappropriate



There are free educational resources to support appropriate use of O RhD negative red cells

<http://hospital.blood.co.uk/>

And search for 'O RhD Neg Resources

A recent national survey

In 2014 the National Transfusion Laboratory Managers Group found that:

- **66%** of hospitals O RhD neg stock was above the recommended maximum 10.5% of total stock
- **42%** of hospitals didn't have a policy for transfusing O RhD positive blood to adult males of unknown blood group
- Only **59%** of hospitals could switch to group specific red cells by 15 minutes

However, on a positive note:

- **66%** always investigated when more than 2 units of O RhD negative unit were used in emergency
- **81%** have a lab stock holding policy to transfuse O RhD negative blood to non-O RhD negative patients

The report makes a number of recommendations to promote good practice. For more information, click on this link:

<http://www.transfusionguidelines.org/uk-transfusion-committees/national-blood-transfusion-committee/working-groups>

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Also visit the website:

<http://hospital.blood.co.uk/>

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Dates for your diary

21 -25 July: RCN Congress in Bournemouth
<http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/congress/2015>

27 June – 1 July: 25th Regional Congress of the ISBT in conjunction with the 33rd Annual Conference of the British Transfusion Society, London
www.isbtweb.org/events-congress