

19 March 2020

Situation Update - Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear colleague,

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping to ensure that blood is available for patients who need it across the NHS. Our stock levels remain in a good position; however, we request your ongoing help with the following:

1. Please limit orders for O D negative red cells unless clinically required
2. Please only specify K negative when clinically required. We will contact hospitals where order levels are high
3. Only specify CMV negative platelets in line with BSH guidelines
4. As your transfusion activity is changing, please advise your Customer Service Manager to help us manage our local stock holding

With support from the National Transfusion Laboratory Managers Group, we are preparing to issue red cells at 23 days' age at issue, and beyond, if our stock position changes and requires it. We will issue low numbers to individual trusts and we will accept credit requests if you are unable to use the unit before time expiry.

We are regularly updating our [covid-19 webpage](#) with blood stock levels and information to help you manage the impact of the virus. We have now added key messages to help with any queries you might get from patients' families or colleagues regarding blood donation.

We are continuing with our move toward UK plasma self-sufficiency (FFP and cryoprecipitate). Changes will be made to OBOS on 1st April. No changes to component barcodes are required. Full details are on our [website](#) .

We appreciate the significant challenges in the NHS at the moment and again thank you for working with us to maintain continuity of supply of our products and services.

Kind regards,

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