

NHSBT Board**Demand for O D Negative Blood**23rd July 2020**Status:** Official**1. Purpose of the Paper**

Cover note to provide context to a presentation being delivered to the Board on demand for O D negative blood.

2. Executive Summary

There has been a 36% reduction in red cell issues over the last 20 years which can be attributed to Better Blood Transfusion and Patient Blood Management initiatives focused on the appropriate use of blood.

Sequential studies of red cell utilisation in the North of England region performed in 1999/2000, 2004, and 2009 showed that red cell transfusion rates fell from 42.7 to 36 units per 1000 population. This decline in usage was shown to be mainly due to a reduction in transfusions for planned surgery. The Better Blood Transfusion and Patient Blood Management initiatives since then have contributed to a further reduction in red cell use to 24.6 units per 1000 population.

In August 2018 demand for O D negative blood reflected 12% of total issues. Demand for O D negative started to increase at this time and is currently reporting at approximately 13.3%. However, issues of O D negative blood are higher than demand currently at approximately 15.3%, mainly due to substitution where NHSBT is unable to provide appropriate ABO matched Ro units of blood.

The multi-disciplinary Patient Blood Management Team in NHSBT is working in collaboration with the wider NHS to reduce inappropriate use of O D negative blood. Whilst there has been considerable investment in bespoke work with Trusts, provision of a range of education initiatives, research and publication of guidance to support evidence based practice, there is still evidence of ongoing variability in transfusion practice within and between hospitals.

Whilst there are clinically justifiable reasons for some of the increases in O D negative use e.g. in trauma where 16% of transfusion is with O D negative blood (compared to 5% in 2010), there is evidence of ongoing inappropriate use relating to stock and waste management. One of the major challenges contributing to this in the over 200 hospital transfusion laboratories across England are issues with maintaining an appropriately educated and trained workforce.

NHSBT provides a leading role in supporting the safe and appropriate use of blood and is currently focusing efforts to better understand and suppress, where clinically appropriate, demand for O D negative blood. Examples of focused actions include leading appropriate use in trauma and driving actions to increase use of O D positive blood in males and females of non-child bearing age.

There have been no national studies of how blood is used since 2014. Whilst we have stock holding and wastage intelligence from data submitted by hospitals into the Blood Stock Management Scheme, the NHS is lacking real time data on the clinical use of blood by speciality.

Recommendations pending publication from Transfusion 2024, a symposium facilitated by the National Blood Transfusion Committee, NHSBT with support from NHS England sets out a new direction of travel for clinical and laboratory blood transfusion in England over the next four years. This will provide a platform for a system wide, renewed focus and approach to address demand for O D negative blood.

3. **Action Requested**

The presentation is for discussion to provide the Board with assurance regarding actions being taken (current and planned) by NHSBT in managing demand for O D negative blood.

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16th July 2020