

Tips for good stock management post COVID-19

- (1) Review your red cell stock levels regularly during times of fluctuating demand:
 - Suggest review every 1-2 weeks to allow for delayed effect of stock reductions to manifest.
 - Consider using Issuable stock index (ISI) as a guide to indicate if stockholding is rising (specifically for A, B & O red cells) which is available using Blood Stocks Management Scheme VANESA application ***see appendix 1**. Close monitoring of TIMEX wastage will also assist active stock management.
 - Ensure communication of any changes is clear to all staff especially those working out of hours who may not routinely work within blood bank.
- (2) Consider the need to return to pre-COVID-19 stock levels or whether a reduced stock holding can be safely maintained. Assistance and guidance on suggested stock levels can be obtained from BSMS – please contact BSMS@nhsbt.nhs.uk if you would like support (please note some brief information will be requested to support data analysis and VANESA red cell stock and wastage data should be up to date)
- (3) Depending on distance from SHU, consider setting lower ideal stock levels – the additional cost of transport is cheaper than discarding units.
- (4) Don't overstock for bank holidays and weekends – usage is generally lower and encouraging staff working on a B/H to review and replenish as required during the morning saves holding unnecessary stock and prevents wastage.
- (5) With the exception of specialist children's and women's hospitals, all hospitals have patients who can receive K positive units. Requesting 100% of stock as K negative is not considered best practice and impacts on the blood supply for everyone.
- (6) Review emergency stock arrangements in remote fridges – it may not be necessary to have emergency stock in all fridges.
- (7) Review your reservation period. Is it possible to return unrequired units more quickly to the laboratory?
- (8) Avoid requests for fresh blood unless there is a defined clinical requirement.
- (9) Keep close contact with external hospitals supplied by your trust and review their requirements in line with your own.
- (10) Where possible, be involved with your Trusts recovery plans and attempt to keep informed with services coming back online or increasing workloads.

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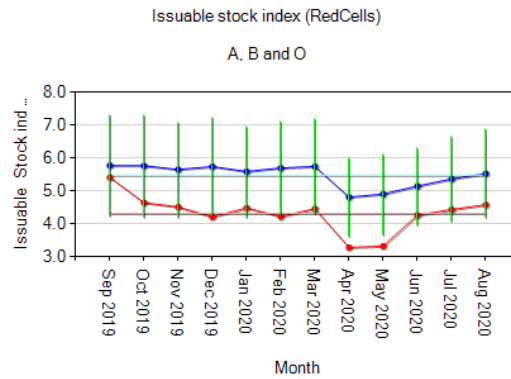
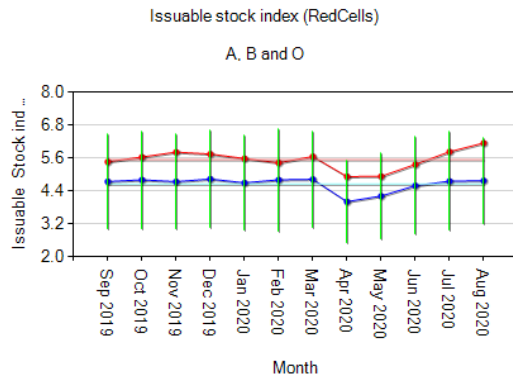
On behalf of the Transfusion Laboratory Managers working group of the NBTC

Appendix 1

Using ISI to indicate the changing dynamic of red cell inventory

Rising ISI indicates the number of days worth of stock is increasing and some adjustments may be required

Flatter ISI for selected hospital indicates even with reduced demand the number of days worth of stock has not increased and reflects pre-COVID levels



Key:

Red line indicates selected hospital ISI from Sept 2019 to Aug 2020

Blue line indicates cluster (i.e. BSMS user category) average ISI from Sept 2019 to Aug 2020

Additional information

- Narrow cluster group by using minimum of BSMS RBC user category; additional clinical service filters can be added if applicable
- The selected hospital red line should ideally be below or close to the blue cluster line
- The impact of changes may take time to manifest so allow enough time for review if inventory levels are changed