

11th January 2021

TO: Transfusion Laboratory Managers, Transfusion Practitioners, Chairs of HTC's,  
Consultant Haematologist with Responsibility for Blood Transfusion and England EPRR.

## **Group A COVID-19 convalescent plasma ("CCP") stock levels**

We currently have low stock levels of Group A CCP which, if it continues, may result in some delays to supply and the need for substitutions.

Whilst we are continuing our high-profile activity to maximise the recruitment of high antibody titre donors in order to improve our stock position, the donor base for CCP is relatively small. This impacts on our ability to rapidly return to an improved stock position, especially so with increasing hospitalisation of patients and the corresponding increase in demand across all blood groups to support the RECOVERY clinical trial.

We would be grateful for your support with the following actions to help to conserve availability of Group A units for Group A patients:

### **Hospital Action:**

1. Please order CCP relevant to the randomised patient's blood group
2. Please do not order Group A CCP as "universal" stock.
3. Please refer to the FFP substitution table (p26 of the Component Portfolio) for alternatives to Group A substitution for Group O patients, in particular
4. Ensure that wastage is kept to a minimum and stock is held only where essential to support clinical trial demand

Thank you for helping us to resolve this issue.

**Please forward this letter to your consultant lead for transfusion and cascade to laboratory and clinical staff as appropriate.**

**Kind regards**

**Dr Lise Estcourt**

*Consultant Haematologist and  
Director of NHSBT Clinical Trials Unit*

**Alastair Hunter**

*NHSBT Plasma Components Manager*