

TO: Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Transfusion Practitioner, Chair of HTC, Chair of RTC, Consultant Haematologist with Responsibility for Blood Transfusion.

26 May 2021

Red Cell Demand Update

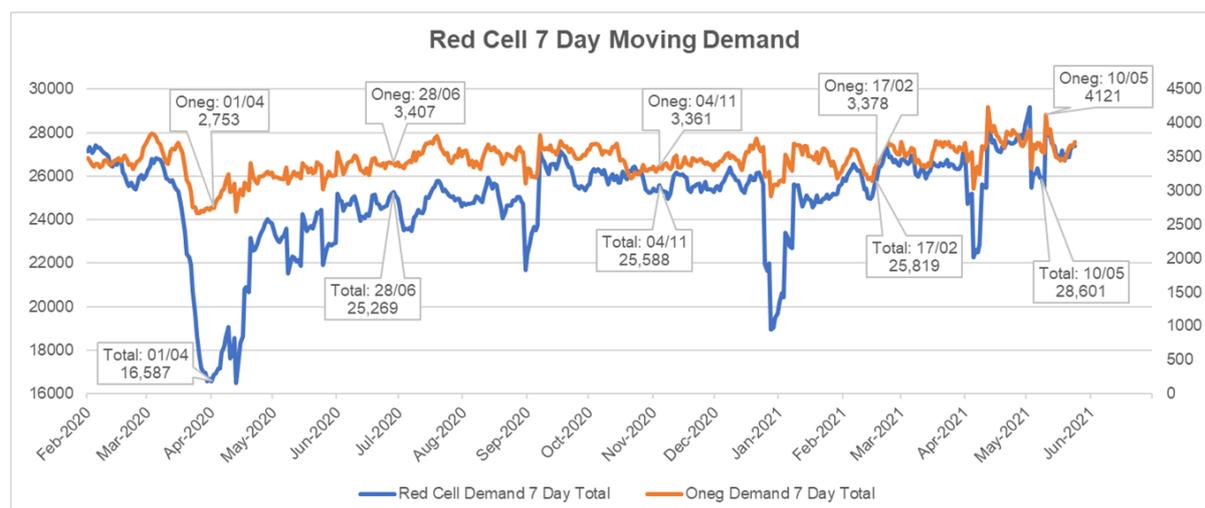
Dear Colleague

We felt it important to provide a further update on hospital demand for blood components as hospitals implement Covid-19 recovery and restoration plans.

NHSBT has continued to work hard to maximize our blood collection plans and our overall blood stock levels remain in a good position. However, we face a challenge over the coming months in accurately forecasting demand as hospitals resume and increase clinical activity. We want to ensure that our stock levels across all blood groups and components remain adequate to meet patient need.

Demand for red cells

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, total red cell demand fell by approximately 35%. In the last few weeks, we have seen demand increasing to around 5% above pre-Covid levels. Demand for O D negative red cells has remained strong and is above the target of 13% of total red cell demand.



We would therefore be grateful for your help with the following:

Information to support NHSBT demand forecasting

- We continue to rely on you to keep us updated with any changes in your hospital activity that may result in a change in demand for blood components. Our current assumption is that demand for red cells over the next few months will be higher than those at pre Covid levels
- We are particularly interested in changes in **high blood use surgery** e.g. cardiothoracic, vascular, orthopaedic
- If you do not have this information, we would be grateful if you would contact your Chief Operating Officer/Recovery Leads to provide further information on changes to activity
- We would also like to know if you have plans to increase your red cell stock levels.

Please email any information to covid19bloodrecovery@nhsbt.nhs.uk or discuss with your local PBM Practitioner or Hospital Customer Service Manager.

We are very grateful to those Trusts that are keeping us regularly updated and for the continued support of the National Transfusion Laboratory Managers Group.

We would like again to thank you for working with us to maintain the supply of blood components and thank you in anticipation of your ongoing support.

Kind regards

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