



Blood and Transplant

TO: Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Transfusion Practitioner, Chair of HTC, Consultant Haematologist with Responsibility for Blood Transfusion and NHS England EPRR

12 January 2022

Pre-Alert - low stock of O D Negative Red Cells

Dear Colleagues,

Whilst we are able to meet current demand, we are concerned that our stock of O D negative red cells is vulnerable, with the potential to affect supply.

The impact of Omicron on donors and our staffing continues to challenge donation activity whilst demand from hospitals has not diminished. We are doing all we can to encourage donors to attend and to provide additional opportunity to donate but need your help to ensure we can maintain an uninterrupted supply.

We are **NOT** asking you to implement your Emergency Blood Management Arrangements (EBMA) at this stage, nor to cancel or delay surgery. However, it is important you ensure your EBMA arrangements are in place and that your Emergency Blood Management group can be convened quickly if needed. We have produced an [EBMA checklist](#) with the National Blood Transfusion Committee that may assist you.

We may need to declare an Amber alert should the situation not improve. Please refer to the National Blood Transfusion Committee's guidance on stock shortages [here](#).

To support supply of O D negative red cells and to avoid a potential shortage, we need you to take the following action: -

You can help us now:

- Reduce your stockholding of O D negative red cells where possible. A small reduction will make a big difference;
- Conserve O D negative red cells for O D negative patients in line with guidelines;
- Transfuse group specific wherever possible;
- Review the [EBMA checklist](#);
- Enter daily red cell stock levels via the VANESA site as soon as possible. This will help us determine the quantities of red cells across the whole of the blood system.

There are tools available to support decisions to administer transfusions and to consider alternatives to blood including an "app" summarising national clinical indications for transfusions and the Patient Blood Management toolkit. Please follow this [link](#).

Please keep us updated with any changes in your hospital activity that may change demand for blood components. Please email any information to covid19bloodrecovery@nhsbt.nhs.uk or discuss with your Hospital Customer Service Manager or Patient Blood Management Practitioner.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Please cascade to laboratory and clinical staff as appropriate.

Kind regards,

Dr Farrukh Shah
Medical Director for Transfusion

Chris Philips
Head of Hospital Customer Service

