



Blood and Transplant

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

22 June 2022

Low Red Cell Stock – O D Positive

Dear Colleagues,

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

We are NOT asking you to implement your Emergency Blood Management Plans at this stage. However, it is important you ensure your EBMP arrangements are in place and that your EBMP group can be convened quickly if needed. Please refer to the National Blood Transfusion Committee's guidance on stock shortages [here](#).

To support our ability to supply group O D positive red cells and to avoid the need to declare an Amber Alert for this group, we need you to take the following actions:

Stock Management:

- Reduce your stockholding of O D positive red cells where possible. A small reduction will make a big difference
- Limit requests for "fresh red cells" and take a proportional share of K+ units
- 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

Appropriate Use of Blood Components:

There are a number of 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](#).

We are doing all we can to ensure enough donors are able to donate and we are able to continue to meet hospital demand.

Please update us with any changes in your hospital activity that may result in increased 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

Chris Philips
Head of Hospital Customer Service

Dr Naim Akhtar
Consultant Haematologist & Lead in Donor Medicine

