



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.

23 June 2022

Pre-Amber alert - low stock of Group A Platelets

Dear Colleagues,

Whilst we are able to meet current demand, we are concerned that our stock of Group A platelets is vulnerable, with the potential to affect supply.

The impact of the current hot weather is affecting collection activity and demand from hospitals appears particularly high. We are doing all we can to encourage group A donors to attend 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 Group A platelets and to avoid a potential shortage, we need you to take the following action:

You can help us now:

- Reduce your stockholding of group A platelets where possible. A small reduction will make a big difference
- Please do not request long dated platelets
- When time permits, match ABO group, rather than rely on group A platelets.
- Accept and use both apheresis and pooled platelets for your patients (except where there is a requirement for HLA/HPA matched platelets)
- Please refer to the following link for additional advice on [appropriate substitutions](#)
- Review the EBMA [checklist](#)

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 support.

Please cascade to laboratory and clinical staff as appropriate.

Kind regards,

Dr Naim Akhtar

Consultant Haematologist & Lead in
Donor Medicine

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Operations Manager, Hospital Customer
Service

