



## Blood and Transplant

**TO: Chief Executive, Medical Director, Chief Medical Officer, Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Transfusion Practitioner, Chair of RTC, Chair of HTC, Consultant Haematologist with Responsibility for Blood Transfusion and England EPRR**

**26 July 2022**

**Low Stock – Pre-Amber alert update – to remain at pre-Amber status for red cells and group A platelets for this week.**

Dear Colleagues,

Following our email on 20th July we thought it helpful to update you on our current stock position.

We would like to thank you for the actions you have taken over the last few days, including decreasing stock levels, accepting substitutions, and ensuring good patient blood management. With these actions and the work NHSBT has been doing to move staff to the frontline and bring more donors in, we have stabilised the blood supply at the pre-Amber state. We are confident that we can maintain supply, whilst remaining in the pre-Amber state for red cells and group A platelets, for this week. However, we remain concerned about sufficiency of supply over coming weeks, and we ask you to continue to work with us to manage supply and demand. We will provide regular updates.

We need your continued support while we take all possible action to avoid a move to an Amber alert. We ask that you remain ready to implement your Emergency Blood Management Arrangements. We are **NOT** asking you to implement your Emergency Blood Management Arrangements at this stage.

### **Revised NBTC red cell and platelet shortage plans and checklist**

The National Blood Transfusion Committee (NBTC) are supporting us and have revised the [Red cell](#) and [Platelet](#) shortage plans, the Emergency Blood Management [checklist](#) and [Amber](#) and [Red alert](#) screen savers. The plans and checklist now have clear actions to be taken in the pre-Amber state.

The NBTC, in representing hospitals has supported us substituting approximately 50% of A D positive red cell orders with A D negative. This action is helping release pressure on A D positive red cell stocks. We appreciate that this can cause additional work in hospitals but is a necessary step to protect stocks and provide red cells that can be transfused and waste avoided. We will revert to normal as soon as we can.

### **Supporting Blood Donation**

Our Donor Experience team are specifically promoting donation where we have capacity to accept donation. Local media is used alongside direct marketing to donors in these areas. This is the most effective way to ensure the right donors can donate in the right location to maximise our capacity. You can check local appointment availability on our [Blood donor appeal](#) page or via the [NHSGiveBlood app](#).

If you need any support or guidance please contact 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.**

Lise Estcourt  
Acting Medical Director  
of Transfusion NHSBT

Youssef Sorour  
Deputy Chair National Blood  
Transfusion Committee (NBTC)

