



Blood and Transplant

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

09 August 2022

Low Stock – pre-Amber alert UPDATE – to remain at pre-Amber status for red cells and group A platelets until at least 5 September

Dear Colleagues,

Our combined actions are making a difference and our stock levels are showing signs of improvement. Whilst this is a positive step, we need to continue to rebuild stocks to a sustainable position before moving away from the pre-Amber alert state.

We are currently able to supply to orders, with some need for substitution, and will remain at pre-Amber alert until at least 5 September. If the situation improves sufficiently, we will review this decision. We are **NOT** asking you to implement your Emergency Blood Management Arrangements at this stage.

Action to help support stock recovery

The Blood Stocks Management Scheme issued new stock level guidance data to most hospitals last week. If the guidance data suggests a change in stock holding, please do consider making the change. Optimised stock holding across all hospitals will support recovery and maintenance of our stocks; a small reduction can make a big difference.

Please ensure all pre-Amber actions in the National Blood Transfusion Committee's [Red Cell Shortage Plan](#) are in place. In addition, please ensure that you transfuse group specific platelets wherever possible.

Supporting blood donation

We urgently need people to donate blood. We have capacity in some of our donor sessions now. 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)

