

**To: Transfusion Laboratory Managers, Transfusion Practitioners, Chair of HTC, Chair of RTC, Consultant Haematologist with responsibility for Blood Transfusion, England EPRR**

**21 November 2023**

## **Update on stock of O D Negative and B D Negative Red Cells**

Dear Colleagues

With your support, and with action by our collection teams, our stock of B D negative red cells has improved. However, the position with O D negative, whilst improved, is still at risk with the potential to impact supply.

Our challenge remains with donation, and we are doing all we can to encourage donation. However, your continued support and action is always important to help us maintain an uninterrupted supply.

Please remind your Transfusion and Patient Blood Management (PBM) teams of the importance of sound PBM and inventory management practice.

### **We ask that you:**

- Reduce your stockholding of O D negative red cells where possible. Any reduction will make a big difference
- Transfuse group specific wherever possible; conserving O D negative red cells for O D negative patients
- Continue to use O D positive blood in accordance with guidelines including the use of O D positive for males and females 51 years and over in emergencies where their blood group is unknown
- Stop requests for “fresh red cells” especially for haemoglobinopathy patients to avoid the need for substitutions
- Enter daily red cell stock levels via the VANESA site as soon as possible. This helps us determine the stock of red cells across the whole of the blood system
- Please promote blood donation. We need O D negative donors to come forward now. Please see our [website](#) for more information

PBM resources can be found on our [website](#) and Inventory Management resources on the [Blood Stocks Management Scheme website](#).

If you require any information or support, please get in touch with your Hospital Customer Service Manager.

Thank you for your support.

**Please cascade to laboratory and clinical staff as appropriate.**

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Farrukh Shah**  
Medical Director – Transfusion  
NHS Blood and Transplant

