

## 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.**

**27 March 2024**

### **Red cell stock levels over the Easter Holiday**

Dear Colleagues

Whilst we can meet current demand, our stock of group O D negative red cells are vulnerable over Easter and may be impacted by spikes in demand.

We are doing all we can to stabilise stocks but will need your help to maintain an uninterrupted supply and ask that you kindly take the following actions.

- Reduce stockholding of O D negative red cells where possible.
- Ensure staff are briefed on the delivery service we are offering over Easter including routine deliveries on Monday 1 April and encourage them to utilise these routine deliveries.
- Take a proportional share of K+ units.
- Continue to implement best practise stock management principles to ensure efficient use and reduce wastage to a minimum.
- Continue to implement Patient Blood Management recommendations to support safe and appropriate use and alternatives to transfusion.
- Consider extending the interval between transfusions if safe to do so.

Thank you in advance for your support. We will provide an update as necessary. If you have any questions, please contact your Customer Service Manager.

Alternatively phone our Response Desk on 0208 201 3107, 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays); we'll be pleased to help.

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

Yours sincerely,

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

