

To: Transfusion Laboratory Managers, Transfusion Practitioners, Chair of HTC, Chair of RTC and Consultant Haematologist with responsibility for Blood Transfusion.

03 April 2024

**Low stock - O D negative red cells
O and A D negative platelets**

Dear Colleague,

We currently have low stock levels of group O D negative red cells and O and A D negative platelets which unfortunately will result in some delays to supply and the need for substitutions.

Whilst we expect platelet stock levels to improve next week, we will not be able to offer group A D negative platelets for stock, i.e. units with a long shelf life.

Our Hospital Service Departments will work with you to supply to your needs and will endeavour to supply for trauma and surgical cover.

Please can we stress that at this stage we are not asking you to invoke your emergency plans.

To support our ability to supply red cells and platelets and to avoid the need to declare an Amber Alert, we need you to take the following actions:

Hospital Action:

1. Continue to use O D positive and O D negative blood in accordance with guidelines including the use of O D positive for males, and females 51 and over, in emergencies where their blood group is unknown.
2. Please only order group A D negative platelets for named patients.
3. Review your stock holding and reduce where possible.
4. Please do not specify CMV, apheresis or High Titre requirements unless clinically required.
5. Consider extending the interval between platelet transfusions if safe to do so.
6. Please review the appropriateness of requests for platelets, especially any requests for double dose platelets. Ensure that wastage is kept to a minimum and stock is held only where essential for patient safety.
7. When placing your order, please indicate the date and time you require the platelets for transfusion. Please let our Hospital Services team know immediately if the urgency of any order changes.

8. When a platelet has been ordered it may not arrive on your routine round and may be sent as a free ad-hoc at a later time. Your platelet order may arrive from a different issuing site.

Please refer to the following link for additional advice [platelets across blood groups](#)
We are sorry for the inconvenience this may cause and thank you for helping us to resolve this issue. We will provide a further update later this week.

Please forward this letter to your consultant lead for transfusion and cascade to laboratory and clinical staff as appropriate.

Kind regards

Dr Farrukh Shah

Medical Director – Transfusion
NHS Blood and Transplant

