



Blood and Transplant

To Transfusion Laboratory Managers, Transfusion Practitioners, Consultant Haematologist with responsibility for Blood Transfusion,

03 May 2024

Low stock - A D negative platelets

Dear Colleague,

We are currently forecasting to have low stock levels of group A D negative platelets after the early May bank holidays which may result in significant delays to supply and the need for substitutions.

To mitigate against this impact, we will not be able to offer group A D negative platelets for stock but will fulfil orders only for named patients.

Our Hospital Service Departments will work with you to supply to your needs, offering suitable substitutions, and will endeavour to supply for surgical cover.

Please can we stress that at this stage we are not asking you to invoke your emergency plans. However, to support our ability to maintain supply we need you to take the following actions:

Hospital Action:

1. Only order group A D negative platelets for named patients.
2. Use group A D positive platelets for males and females over 50 where their blood group is unknown.
3. Consider extending the interval between platelet transfusions if safe to do so.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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 next week.

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

Kind regards

Dr Lise Estcourt

Consultant Haematologist

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Clinical Lead for the Systematic Review Initiative

Director of NHSBT Clinical Trials Unit

Associate Medical Director (AMD) – Research, Development and Quality

Improvement - Transfusion

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