



Blood and Transplant

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

12 August 2024

GROUP O, RED CELL SHORTAGE - AMBER ALERT UPDATE

Dear Colleagues,

Since declaring an Amber alert for group O red cells on 25 July, our stock has shown some improvement but remains vulnerable. We continue to be at Amber level and ask that you maintain your Emergency Blood Management Arrangements for group O red cells.

We would like to thank all hospitals that have supported us by reducing stock holding, deploying best inventory practice and Patient Blood Management initiatives. We have had a strong response from donors and combined with your action have seen some improvement in stocks.

We will remove the alert once we are confident that stocks have reached a strong and sustainable level.

To support stock sharing between trusts, or with independent hospitals, we have produced a template service level agreement. You can find this template [here](#) .

Hospital Action:

1. You should now have your Emergency Blood Management Arrangements for an amber shortage in place including all Patient Blood Management initiatives.
2. You should now have reviewed stock holding and reduced where possible. A small reduction will make a big difference to national stocks.
3. Please continue to submit daily blood stock management data to VANESA as this supports our planning.
4. Consider stock sharing to avoid wastage

We are continuing to take action to improve staff capacity at donor sessions and encouraging as many donors as possible to donate. We have seen a great reaction from donors. Our message to people wanting to donate that can't find an immediate

appointment is to please book ahead as we need donations in coming months as well as right now. For donation availability please see our [Blood Donor Appeal](#) page.

We apologise for the extra work and inconvenience these restrictions will cause.

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; we'll be pleased to help.

Please cascade to laboratory and clinical staff as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Lise Estcourt
Medical Director for Transfusion
NHS Blood and Transplant

Professor Cheng-Hock Toh
Chair
National Blood Transfusion Committee

