

**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**

**21 August 2024**

## **Stock Update and Bank Holiday Service Provision**

Dear Colleague

Since declaring an Amber alert for group O red cells on 25 July, our stock has continued to improve. However, group O remains vulnerable to changes in donation and hospital demand. We need to be confident that we can transition out of Amber and maintain support for hospitals seamlessly; at this time we do not have that confidence.

We remain at Amber level for group O red cells and ask that you maintain your Emergency Blood Management Arrangements. We expect the Amber alert to continue until at least early September, however we will keep this position under close review. We remain at pre-Amber level for group A positive and group B negative red cells, and group A negative platelets.

We would like to thank all hospitals that have supported us and ask that you continue to review stock holding and maintain best inventory practice and Patient Blood Management initiatives.

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, telephone 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.**

Kind regards

Dr Lise Estcourt  
Medical Director for Transfusion  
NHS Blood and Transplant

Professor Cheng-Hock Toh  
Chair  
National Blood Transfusion Committee



## August Bank Holiday 2024 Service Provision

Please see the table below for our adjusted service for the provision of pooled granulocytes. All other services will be as per our normal 3-day bank holiday service.

### Collect Orders

We will fulfil collect orders as normal. Please provide as much notice as possible to assist us in meeting your order.

### Deliveries

Deliveries on 26 August 2024 Bank Holiday, will consist of ad-hocs, collects and emergency deliveries only. Please adjust any standing orders due for delivery on the Bank Holiday accordingly.

### Pooled Granulocytes

A limited supply of granulocytes will be available as shown on the table below. We cannot guarantee supply, as granulocytes are a limited stock item. Delivery times may be longer dependent on location of the component at the point of issue.

Date	Delivery	Pooled Granulocytes
24 August	Normal weekend service	Normal supply with best endeavours
25 August	Normal weekend service	No supply
26 August	Emergency, collect and Ad hoc service only	Nationally 6 units O D positive
27 August	Normal service	Nationally 10 units O D positive
28 August	Normal service	Normal supply with best endeavours