

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

11 September 2024

Update - Amber Alert Continues for Group O Red Cells. Pre-Amber continues for Group A negative platelets. Groups B negative, A positive and AB negative red cells return to Green.

Dear Colleagues,

We'd like to thank you for your support and patience since we declared the Amber alert for group O red cells on 25 July. We do appreciate the additional work and concern this places on you; your support continues to help us maintain supply for all.

Our stock has continued to improve but group O red cells remain vulnerable to changes in donation and hospital demand. We continue to support the hospitals that have faced the cyberattack in London and their recovery is linked to our assurance on stocks. We need to be fully confident that we can transition out of Amber and maintain support for hospitals seamlessly. However, we do not have that confidence at this time.

We therefore remain at Amber level for group O red cells and ask that you maintain your Emergency Blood Management Arrangements. We have the position under close review and will inform you as soon as we are able to move out of Amber.

We remain at pre-Amber level for group A negative platelets.

We have returned to Green for Group B negative, Group A positive and AB negative red cells. We no longer require hospitals to accept A negative red cell substitutions.

We are working hard to increase the amount of O type blood we collect by encouraging more donors to book appointments. This includes continuing to increase the number of available appointments, using the media and social media to encourage donors to book appointments, and undertaking targeted marketing activity. We have good appointment availability in our fixed donor centres in town and city centres and are asking people to book appointments over the coming weeks and 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 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

