

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

17 December 2024

Low Stock of A D negative platelets – Named Patient Orders Only

Dear Colleagues

Whilst our platelet stock levels are sufficient to meet current demand, we are concerned about sufficiency of supply of group A D negative platelets over coming days and weeks.

To support us in maintaining uninterrupted supply we will only issue A D negative platelets for named patients. This will be implemented tomorrow and is expected to last until 9 January 2025.

We are **NOT** asking you to implement your Emergency Blood Management Arrangements (EBMA) at this stage. However, **it is important you ensure your EBMA for platelets are in place and that your EBM group can be convened quickly if needed.** We've produced an EBMA checklist to assist your HTC alongside the National Blood Transfusion Committee's guidance on [stock shortages](#).

We are doing all we can to improve stocks but need your help. To support platelet supply and to avoid the need to declare an Amber Alert, please take the following actions:

Stock Management:

- **Only order group A D negative platelets for named patients**
- Review your stock holding and reduce where possible
- Do not specify CMV, apheresis or High Titre requirements unless clinically required
- Match ABO group rather than rely on A group platelets as this provides better patient outcomes
- Consider extending the interval between platelet transfusions if safe to do so
- 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
- 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.

Appropriate Use of Platelets:

The Patient Blood Management Team have produced a range of [resources](#) to support best practice in Platelet use.

If you need any support or guidance, please contact your Hospital Customer Service Manager.

Alternatively phone our Response Desk on 0208 201 3107, 09:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday; we'll be pleased to help.

We appreciate this requires additional work and are thankful for your ongoing support.

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

